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Man stabbed 12 times in nightclub

CRIME Police are searching for a white male after a 22-year-old Toronto man was stabbed 12 times inside a nightclub in the Entertainment District early yesterday.

Police responding to a 1:50 a.m. call at Lot 332 on Richmond Street West, just east of Peter Street, found the victim with stab wounds to the arms and back.

The fight broke out after a disagreement inside the club between the victim and another man, police said. It does not appear they knew each other.

The stabbing victim was rushed to hospital in serious, but non-life-threatening condition. He was treated for his injuries and released.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

JOE KLAMAR/GETTY IMAGES

Thousands of Polish people observe a minute of silence in front of the presidential palace in Warsaw yesterday as they pay their respects to the victims of the air crash that killed their president. More coverage, page 14.

'Our hearts are filled with pain'

Polish community mourns loss of president

It was a day of mourning and remembrance for Toronto's Polish community, starting with mass at St. Casimir's Church and ending with the laying of wreaths at a nearby park.

The death of President Lech Kaczynski stunned parishioners. Kaczynski and 95 others were on their way to Russia to mark the 70th anniversary of the Katyn massacre, the 1940 slaughter of 22,000 Polish military officers, clerics and intellectuals by Soviet secret police in the forest of Katyn, outside the Russian city of Smolensk.

Archbishop Thomas Collins, head of the Toronto Catholic diocese, led the high mass at the Roncesvalles Avenue church in the heart of the Polish community. There are about 227,050 individuals of Polish descent in the Greater Toronto Area.

"It was a wonderful mass," said Janina Tobola. "My heart is broken ... but this helped me find a bit of peace." Tobola, who has lived in Canada for 40 years, called Kaczynski a "true patriot" and says she hopes another man or woman will fill the void.

COLIN MCCONNELL/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Parishioners come together for mass at St. Casimir's Church on Roncesvalles Avenue yesterday to pray for those who died in the Polish plane crash.

Krystyna Winirski, 77, said she met the president's wife, Maria, who was also killed in the crash, several years ago in Toronto when she was visiting a senior's citizens residence. "She was very nice, very nice," said Winirski. "But it's all sadness now."

After the service, parishioners, community groups and Polish veterans of the Second World War and associates marched to the Katyn memorial in a small park at the foot of Roncesvalles Avenue where wreaths were laid in memory of the massacre.

Marek Ciesielczuk, Poland's consul general in Toronto, told the gathering of hundreds there were no words to describe the feelings of sadness shared by Poles all around the world.

"Our hearts are filled with pain," he said. "Another tragedy has come to us."

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SCANLIFE

Local

Examining the swine flu response

A panel of external experts begins the task today of critiquing how the World Health Organization and the international community responded to the H1N1 pandemic. Among the 29 committee members is Dr. Arlene King, left, Ontario's chief medical officer of health. The committee, which is expected to complete its work over the course of the next 13 months, is being asked to identify what went right and what went wrong in the pandemic response. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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INDEX

Canada Pg 8
World Pg 14
Comment Pg 18
Business Pg 20
Going Green Pg 24
Sports Pg 25
Workology Pg 30
Entertainment Pg 33
TV Listings Pg 36
Celebrity Buzz Pg 37
Take Five Pg 38

Tomorrow's Metro

Comment
Lawrence Martin gives us his take on the Canadian political scene.

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'Operators do slack off a lot'

TTC union's customer service town halls kick off in Downsview

Anger brought them together, but when the TTC's union met face-to-face with riders at a town hall yesterday, there were few signs of the animosity that badly strained riders' relationship with front-line transit workers a couple of months back.

VINCE TALOTTA/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

TTC union boss Bob Kinnear co-hosts the first of three transit union-organized town halls about TTC customer service yesterday.

The first of three meetings organized by the transit union proved that "the frustration we've been hearing about over the last few months isn't necessarily directed only at the frontline employees," said Bob Kinnear, president of Local 113 of the Amalgamated Transit Union.

"Yes there have been disappointing incidences, which the union does not condone in any way. But I think there's been some clarity that it's the underlying issues with service and lack thereof that are more important issues," he said.

Back when the meetings were organized, anger at transit workers was boiling over. Already annoyed by a fare hike and token shortages, riders were outraged by published photos of a sleeping subway collector and video of a bus driver taking an unauthorized coffee break.

The 480-seat auditorium at Downsview Secondary School was more than half full as riders waited turns at the microphone to ask about why buses and streetcars don't arrive on schedule and why, after a long wait, they turn up in bunches.

The union spokespeople on the panel, moderated by talk radio host John Tory, were apologetic.

The normally defiant Kinnear, who had earlier this year lectured riders to stop abusing drivers and taking embarrassing photos and videos of them, acknowledged his members played a part in the customer service crisis.

"Operators do slack off a lot," driver John Bethune told the audience, later stressing, "I didn't say anything that wasn't true."

"TTC management need to go back to train us so we can do the job properly," panellist and driver Anthony Wallace said after the meeting. "We need to make sure we serve the public to the best of our ability."

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Meetings

- Future town halls will take place Sunday in Scarborough and May 2 at Ryerson University. Information and queries can be directed to the union's website at wemovetoronto.ca/wemovetoronto.ca

Protesters decry closing of compassion club

MARIJUANA Some lit up bongs, some blasted Bob Marley songs and others waved flags emblazoned with the marijuana leaf in an afternoon protest yesterday against the shuttering of Cannabis as Living Medicine (CALM) outside police headquarters.

On March 31, officers raided the Queen Street East offices of CALM, a "compassion club" that sells marijuana to medicinal users, and charged nine people with a variety of drug-related offences.

About 300 demonstrators gathered outside the College Street headquarters yesterday to protest the closing and demand that Health Canada make it easier for those with medical needs to access the drug.

"A lot of people need help from cannabis, but it's hard to get high-quality cannabis," said Neev Tapiero, CALM's owner, adding the clinic's users have rallied since the raid.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE PHOTO

CALM activists protest yesterday outside police headquarters on College Street.

"Everyone's in great spirits; the community is behind us," he said.

Police officers, standing behind security fences, lined the north and south sides of the building and shut down part of the street. No violence was reported.

The crowd was a mix, with dread-locked marijuana legalization activists rubbing shoulders with sufferers of epilepsy and HIV, who say the drug eases their conditions.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

News in brief

COLLISION Two police officers were taken to hospital with minor injuries after a pickup truck collided with a police cruiser in the Financial District early yesterday morning. Two officers inside the cruiser were taken to hospital and treated for minor injuries. The 61-year-old male driver of the pickup truck did not suffer any injuries. Police said alcohol was not suspected in the crash and no charges have yet been laid. Police continue to investigate the crash.

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Cost of power to spike
Residential electricity is going to cost more next year. Hydro One will raise its distribution rates on May 1, and again on Jan. 1, 2011. METRO NEWS SERVICES

LUCAS OLENIUK/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Rabbi I. Landa attended the Community Holocaust Commemoration at Earl Bales Park yesterday afternoon. Prior to the ceremony, dozens of testimonial pages were projected in tribute to the men, women and children that were murdered during the Holocaust.

Holocaust memories

Survivor shares story on day of remembrance

"I'm going to the place where we got off the cattle cars and I was separated from my parents," said Hedy Bohm by phone from Poland last night. "I'm somewhat dreading it."

Today is Yom Hashoah, or Holocaust Remembrance Day. Bohm will spend it visiting the Auschwitz-Birkenau death camp, where she was sent as a teenager in May 1944.

At the entrance, where prisoners were separated into men and women, Bohm caught one last glimpse of her father. A few steps later, she fell behind her mother. A Nazi guard with a gun stepped in front of her, and ordered her to turn to the right. Just like that, Bohm became an orphan.

"That was my life's most traumatic moment," said Bohm, who came to Toronto in 1948 with her husband, Imre, also a Holocaust survivor.

This is the first time that Bohm has returned to Poland since the end of the Second World War. Today, she'll be going to the camp with March of the Living, an international initiative led in Toronto by the United Jewish Appeal.

"I didn't sleep very much last night, thinking about the things that happened to me there."
Hedy Bohm, Holocaust survivor

The annual trip to Eastern Europe's important Holocaust sites is an opportunity for young people to learn their history in the company of a survivor.

Yesterday, Bohm and a group of Grade 10 and 11 students toured Auschwitz, the original camp that was extended into Auschwitz-Birkenau in the later part of the war.

"We viewed like tourists the hair, shoes and glasses," said Bohm. "I didn't sleep very much last night, thinking about the things that happened to me there."

At age 16, Bohm was moved from Auschwitz to the German slave-labour camp Fallersleben, where she assembled land mines and V2 rockets in a converted Volkswagen plant.

In Toronto yesterday, 2,000 people gathered in Earl Bales Park to commemorate Yom Hashoah.

Among the many readings was Elie Wiesel's The Legacy, spoken aloud by another survivor, Arnold Friedman.

"We vow in the name of the dead parents and children..." read Friedman, "we shall never let the sacred memory of our perished Six Million to be scorned or erased."

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Funding uncertain for full-day kindergarten

EDUCATION With just over four months to go before implementing the biggest change in Ontario schools in a generation, boards still don't know how they will pay for full-day kindergarten and fear that they might have to sacrifice other programs.

Concern about the program's looming implementation is growing among trustees around the GTA who fear that the bill — one of Premier Dalton McGuinty's key election promises — is being rushed through too hastily.

"The funding is not adequate to roll out the program as prescribed by the province," said Durham District School Board trustee Michael Barrett, who attended a meeting Saturday with trustees for Toronto, York Region, Durham and several other smaller boards.

35,000
Parents are already snapping up the 35,000 full-day kindergarten spots that will start at almost 600 elementary schools this fall. The program means four- and five-year-olds will be in school for a full day, and will be taught by a teacher and an early childhood educator.

"There will be some very difficult choices to make," said Barrett.

"We will have to take out dollars from other variables (programs)."

Full-day kindergarten dominated discussion at the meeting.

The program will be phased in across the province over the next six years. Ontario currently spends about $700 million a year on half-day kindergarten, which has more than 240,000 students enrolled.

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Men wanted after flea market robbery

Police are searching for two male suspects after an armed robbery at the Toronto Weston flea market. The men entered the market, on Old Weston Road near St. Clair Avenue West, then smashed a jewelry case with two-by-fours. The suspects snatched an "undisclosed amount" of merchandise then fled, police said. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Lucky Pantalone looks to build on legacy

Joe Pantalone could be the year's luckiest politician.

After almost 30 years as a city councillor and six as deputy mayor, the strange twists of political life altered his fate from an almost certain also-ran to the candidate with the best shot of carrying on Mayor David Miller's legacy — if that's how Toronto voters choose to go.

Like Miller, he comes from the NDP, although he prefers "progressive" to "leftist".

Earlier this year, his chances didn't look so good. Adam Giambrone appeared to be Miller's anointed champion against former Liberal provincial minister George Smitherman and Rocco Rossi, who'd been director of the national Liberal party.

Pantalone trailed badly in early polls, even his name recognition failing him.

But then, Giambrone misrepresented the truth about a sex scandal and dropped out of the race. His campaign manager, John Laschinger, bolted to Pantalone and now compares him to a former client, first-time mayoral candidate Miller, who overcame low

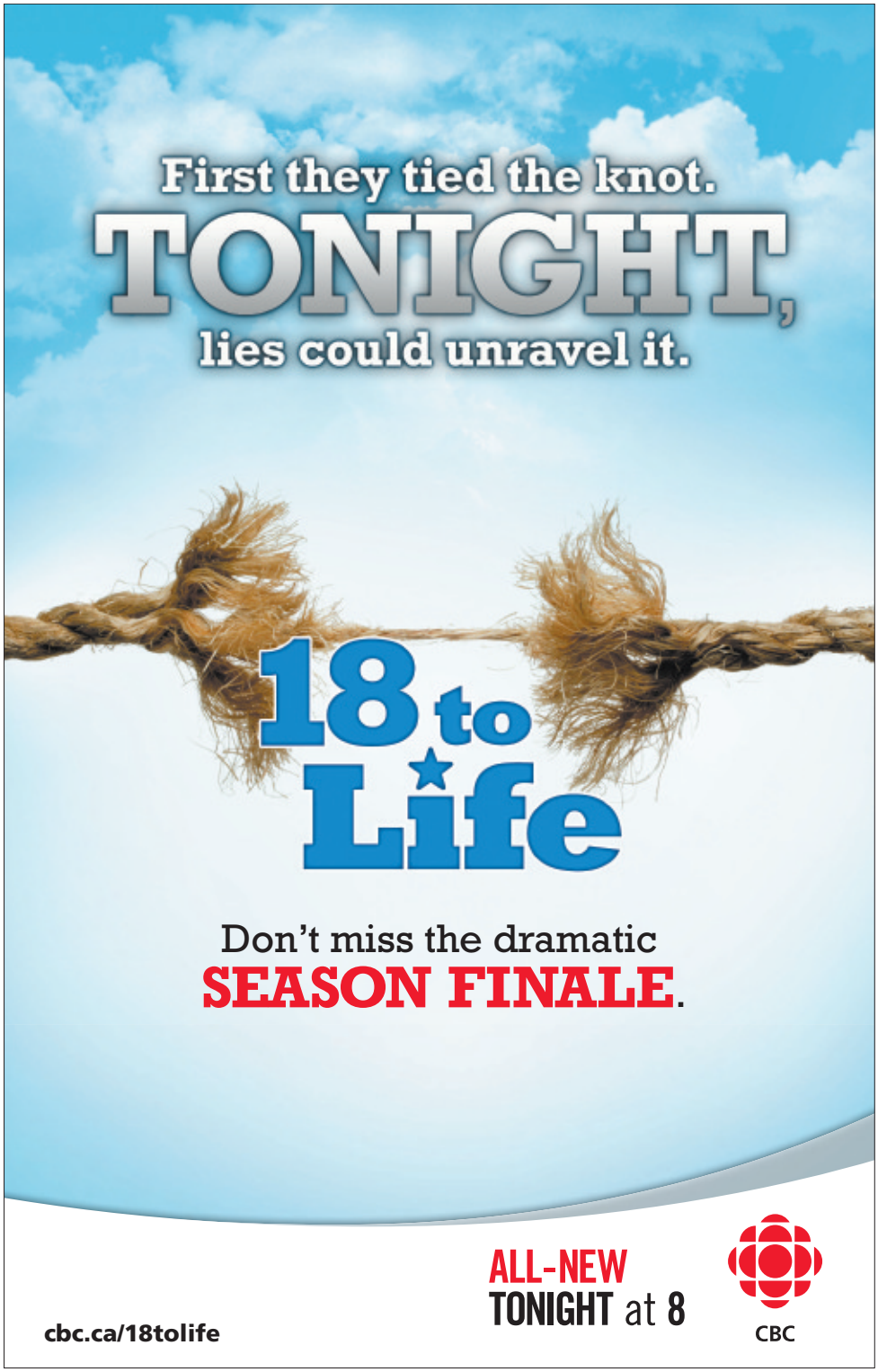
Joe Pantalone

polls to win in 2003.

Pantalone says he's proud to stand for the Miller legacy, calling Transit City his first and second priorities. He'll fight Premier Dalton McGuinty's recent decision to delay $4 billion in provincial funding. Of Smitherman and Rossi, he says: "They did a terrible disservice to every Torontonian who is stuck in traffic, or has to wait for an additional bus or streetcar to get on. By musing about whether there's a need for what everybody else says is needed (Transit City), they may have given Mr. McGuinty the excuse to pull the plug on it."

Isn't Pantalone merely a Miller clone?

"Not at all," he insists. He points to his support for having three citizen commissioners (among nine members) on the Toronto Transit Commission as proof of new thinking, adding he'll reveal more in the six months before election day. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE



Carrotmob 'Buycott' on Bloor

JOHN R. KENNEDY/METRO TORONTO

U of T students drum up business for G's Fine Foods on Bloor Street Saturday afternoon. Carrotmob, a group of consumers that rewards businesses who pledge to make environmentally and socially responsible decisions, organized the "buycott" after the store pledged to spend the day's proceeds on energy-efficient renovations and to stock more local products.

Resignation from Smitherman camp due to friction: Source

MAYORAL RACE George Smitherman's campaign manager abruptly resigned three months into the 11-month race because of friction with other strategists and the mayoral candidate himself, a source who knows the players suggested Saturday.

The source, who isn't involved in a campaign, said it appears prominent Conservative backroomer Jeff Bangs got fed up with "too many cooks" directing how to keep Smitherman the frontrunner in a marathon race that heated up unexpectedly early.

The "cooks," the source said, include Smitherman and Jaime Watt, a key figure in past provincial Conservative campaigns.

Smitherman's campaign announced Bangs's departure at 10 p.m. Friday in a statement that said the veteran politico was quitting to spend more time with his family.

Stefan Baranski, spokesman for Smitherman's campaign, called the "too many cooks" statement "speculation and hay-making," adding he didn't see friction between Bangs and the rest of the team.

"It does raise the issue of whether or not Mr. Smitherman can get along with people."
John Laschinger, campaign manager for Joe Pantalone

Some of Smitherman's rivals, meanwhile, pounced on the departure as proof that the hard-nosed former cabinet minister isn't a consensus builder who could unite a majority of city councillors to fix urgent problems.

"It does raise the issue of whether or not Mr. Smitherman can get along with people. The mayor has to work with 44 councillors," said John Laschinger, campaign manager for Deputy Mayor Joe Pantalone.

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Harper appoints Soudas to top communications job

Prime Minister Stephen Harper will seek to put a stopper in the spinning door outside of his director of communications office by appointing a longtime loyalist to the position. Harper did not have to go far to fill the job. Dimitri Soudas, currently the prime minister's official spokesman, will take on the job of spinner-in-chief. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Canada

Pigs could set precedent: Docs

A herd of sick pigs was nothing to sneeze at for public health officials. The federal government realized that how it handled a herd of pigs that caught swine flu could set a precedent in Canada and elsewhere, a new document shows. An outbreak of H1N1 on an Alberta farm last spring was the first-ever report of the new virus in pigs, and the source of the infection remains a mystery.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Roadside bomb kills another soldier

AFGHANISTAN A Canadian soldier has been killed in a powerful roadside bomb blast while on foot patrol in a volatile community southwest of Kandahar City.

The attack that killed Pte. Tyler William Todd, 26, happened early yesterday near the community of Belanday, about eight kilometres outside of the provincial capital.

Pte. Tyler William Todd

Brig.-Gen. Dan Menard, the commander of Canadian troops in Afghanistan, says Todd was on a routine patrol to learn more about the people of the village and their needs when the bombing happened.

"His enthusiasm and strong will were inspirational to his platoon," Menard said in a prepared statement. "He was doing what he loved to do — being a soldier operating alongside friends."

A statement from the prime minister's office said another Canadian soldier had been injured in the same incident. The Canadian military didn't confirm the injury as it no longer releases information on those wounded on the battlefield.

Stephen Harper expressed his "deepest condolences" to Todd's family and friends.

"The thoughts of an entire country are with you in this most difficult time," he said in a statement. "I also hope for the quick and full recovery of the other Canadian soldier injured in the same incident."

Harper added that Canada's commitment to creating a better future for the Afghan people would not be diminished by the incident.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Guergis issues well-known to Conservative insiders

You can't swing a dead cat around Parliament Hill, or even within the Prime Minister's Office, without hitting a former staff member of Helena Guergis.

That has some insiders wondering why allegations of wrongdoing are suddenly coming to light at this late juncture.

Prime Minister Stephen Harper ousted her from the Conservative government Friday and called in the Mounties and the Commons ethics commissioner to investigate unnamed allegations against Guergis.

The move came after the Toronto Star published a report last week that alleged her husband Rahim Jaffer had been bragging to business associates that he could open doors for them in the halls of power.

It also came to light that Jaffer had been using one of his wife's parliamentary BlackBerrys and attached email address after he had been defeated as an MP in 2008.

A former staff member says anyone who worked with Guergis knew how incredibly close she and her husband were, and that they co-ordinated their schedules to be together.

She calls allegations against her "unfair and untrue."

Neither she nor Harper have specified what the allegations entail.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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SEAN KILPATRICK/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Helena Guergis responds to a question in the House of Commons on Parliament Hill in Ottawa earlier this year before her ousting from the Conservative government.

News in brief

TASER RESULTS Taser International's fight to quash a public inquiry report that concluded the controversial weapons can kill lands in a Vancouver courtroom today. The British Columbia government will ask the court to toss the weapon manufacturer's legal challenge of the findings from the Braidwood report from the first phase of a public inquiry prompted by the death of Robert Dziekanski at Vancouver's airport.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Canada reshuffles construction base

KANDAHAR Canada's provincial reconstruction base in Kandahar — often the source of great political pride for the Harper government — is now a joint venture with the United States. A change of command was held with no fanfare whatsoever, marking the handover of the base to civilian control. The reorganization also sees the U.S. take an equal role in the decision-making process, a move that raises questions about whether Ottawa intends to pull civilians out of the province entirely when the military leaves next year. Although the combat mission ends in July 2011, Prime Minister Stephen Harper has pledged that the development mission will continue.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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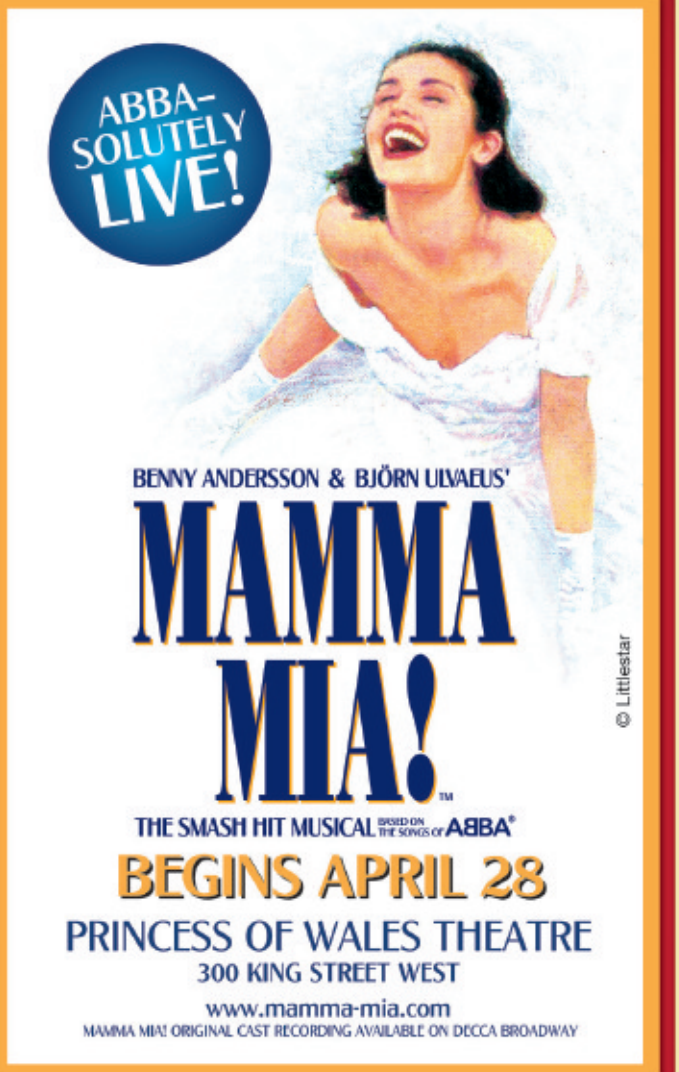
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Family of Terry Fox commemorating his legacy on the Rock

Canadian icon Terry Fox's family will be in St. John's today to commemorate the 30th anniversary of the Marathon of Hope. Fox lost a leg to bone cancer and planned to run across Canada to raise money for cancer research, beginning the trek April 12, 1980, by dipping his artificial leg in the waters off St. John's. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Sex offender loophole?

Government guide fails to mention key screening step

The government's own "best practice" guide for screening volunteers makes no mention of a critical step to identify pardoned sex offenders such as Graham James.

Under existing legislation that has been strictly enforced since last December, only the individual being screened can request a "vulnerable sector" search that would reveal a pardoned sex offence.

Yet Public Safety Canada's own "best practice guidelines for screening volunteers" does not explain vulnerable sector searches in detail, nor make clear that they must be initiated by the individual being screened.

A Public Safety spokesman said in an e-mailed statement that it's "implicitly understood that a vulnerable sector search is automatically part of the process."

The guide acknowledges that though a person may have received a pardon, the public safety minister may unseal the record to help screen those who would work with children and other vulnerable people.

But it doesn't spell out the fact that the volunteer must personally initiate the search and then submit fingerprints before the details of a pardoned offence can be released to the individual.

PAWEL DWULIT/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Minister of Public Safety Vic Toews says it's a good idea for organizations to request "full criminal record checks" on prospective employees and volunteers.

There were 887 pardons granted to sex offenders in 2009-10 and 667 the year before, according to the National Parole Board. The RCMP reports it has files for 14,584 pardoned sex offenders in its national database.

Public Safety Minister Vic Toews is planning legislative changes that would make it more difficult for people convicted of sex offences to obtain pardons.

While Toews' office says it's a good idea to request "full criminal record checks" on prospective employees and volunteers, there's no indication he will do anything to make it easier for organizations and companies to identify pardoned sex offenders.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Leaders look to cut nuke threat

SUMMIT The leaders of almost 50 countries, including Prime Minister Stephen Harper, descend upon the U.S. capital today for a nuclear security summit aimed at stopping terrorists from unleashing nuclear attacks on their enemies.

The summit comes just after the U.S. and Russian signed a new arms reduction treaty in Prague. That pact will cut nuclear warheads in each country by about 30 per cent.

In Ottawa, a senior government official warned the situation is dire in terms of the global availability of materials that can be used to build nuclear weapons.

"There are materials worldwide to produce hundreds of nuclear bombs, and that material is located in thousands of different places ... and could be available to terrorist groups or even organized crime," the official said in a briefing in advance of the summit.

"There are materials worldwide to produce hundreds of nuclear bombs."
Government official

He said Canada would be pushing at the summit for countries to share and exchange as much information as possible about the sale of nuclear material.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Computer repair leads to arrest

CHILD PORN An Ontario man who took his computer to a Winnipeg repair shop for some work has been arrested and charged with possession of child pornography.

Police began investigating when a repair technician saw images that looked like child abuse. They then obtained a warrant to search the computer further, finding about 200 offending images.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

News in brief

B.C. Prince Rupert RCMP are investigating the death of a 16-year-old female whose body was discovered on the town's waterfront Saturday afternoon. Cpl. Jagdev Uppal says the victim was spotted by a passerby but police don't yet know what caused the teen's death. Uppal wouldn't confirm if police are treating the death as a homicide, but said the news of the teen's death is "devastating for the entire community."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Old Habits Die Hard

Consumers Remain Complacent About Rising Car Insurance Rates

What Does Your Renewal Notice Say?

If you're like many consumers, your renewal notice is coming up again, a day you always dread. How much will your rate increase this year? With rates increasing by an average of almost 10% over the last 12 months across Ontario insurers, chances are your rate is going up again, even if your driving record has not changed. You might figure there is no point shopping around for a better rate since everyone's rates seem to be increasing. Better to at least save your time by signing back the renewal, just like you do every year, right? Wrong. You can save time and money on your car insurance...if you know where to look.

How Do I Break The Cycle?

First, you need to realize that you have control over your car insurance costs – you just need to exercise it. And the simplest way to do that is to shop around. Why? Because despite what you've heard about rising car insurance rates, the size of the increase can vary significantly from one company to the next and from one driver to another. The truth is that rates charged by different insurance companies to insure the same driver, with the same car, for the same coverage, can vary by hundreds and even thousands of dollars. Take a look at the table below.

Have you tried shopping for a better rate in the past and found yourself spending hours on the phone, calling around to various insurance companies to get quotes, only to find you still can't get a better deal? Do not despair, InsuranceHotline.com can help by instantly providing quotes from over 30 insurance companies to find you the lowest rate available. Best of all, the service is absolutely FREE.

Don't Be Fooled By Others Offering To "Compare Quotes"

Unlike most of its competitors, InsuranceHotline.com does not sell insurance, is not a licensed broker or agent, and is not owned in whole or in part by an insurance company. This allows InsuranceHotline.com to be completely unbiased when providing insurance quotes and keeps its focus solely on finding the lowest insurance rates for consumers.

By contrast, most websites offering to "compare insurance quotes" are owned by or affiliated with insurance brokers or agents and are therefore only capable of quoting rates from the limited number of insurance companies they represent, typically no more than 4 or 5.

Start Saving Your Money Now

There is no better time to break the habit. Before you sign back your renewal, take 10 minutes and let InsuranceHotline.com help you shop around for a lower rate. With quotes from over 30 top insurance companies, InsuranceHotline.com is the simplest and easiest way to make sure you aren't overpaying for your car insurance. So don't wait another minute. Go online to InsuranceHotline.com and start saving your money now.

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Government has little to show for costly jobs program
A decade after the $98-million Cape Breton Growth Fund — quietly wrapped up by the Conservatives in early 2008 – was created to help Cape Breton transform its economy after the collapse of coal mining, the jobs legacy includes four call centres and a half dozen other small businesses. THE CANADIAN PRESS

ADRIAN WYLD/THE CANADIAN PRESS

G8 leaders meeting at the Deerhurst Resort, above, in Huntsville, Ont., this summer will see some of Canada's most ferocious, bloodthirsty creatures: The black fly and the mosquito.

G8 welcoming committee

World leaders to brave height of bug season during June summit

Canada is highlighting the country's eccentricities as it hosts the G8 this year, holding the finance ministers' meeting in Iqaluit in February and next the leaders' summit in Huntsville, Ont., in June.

The finance ministers lucked out into a patch of relatively balmy weather of about –10. But the leaders in Huntsville may not escape nature so easily.

Normally, at the end of June in the area around Algonquin Park, the spring's crop of black flies is still hanging around, and the mosquitoes are out in full force.

Even though spring came early this year, there's no guarantee the bug population will let up, since their breeding depends on conditions in the coming months, says Douglas Currie, curator of entomology at the Royal Ontario Museum.

Black flies usually peak in mid-June and only begin to taper off by the end of the month. The mosquito population, on the other hand, rejuvenates itself every couple of weeks, and their quantities depend on recent rainfall. Usually, they thrive at the end of June.

But while the Prime Minister himself has reportedly expressed concerns about the bug population, the resort says it has no plans to take any extra steps to shoo away the bugs.

There's simply no need, says Deerhurst spokeswoman Anne White.

Mosquitoes and black flies are "not the issue some have made it out to be," White said in an email exchange. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Canadian engineers played key role in Apollo 13 rescue

SPACE High above the Earth, the lives of the Apollo 13 astronauts depended on a series of calculations by Canadian engineers. The slightest miscalculation could have meant death for the three-man crew.

The drama unfolded on April 13, 1970, when astronaut Jack Swigert sent one of the most famous messages in space-travel history to ground controllers: "Houston, we've had a problem here."

The words sparked a series of events that would grip the world for four days as people waited to see if the astronauts would safely navigate the more than 320,000 kilometres back to Earth.

The mission had to be scrapped when an oxygen tank exploded, forcing NASA scientists and the astronauts to scramble to get the crippled spacecraft back to Earth.

One phone call for assistance was made to the University of Toronto Institute of Aerospace Studies on April 16, 1970.

The Apollo spacecraft had three components: The astronauts' command module, a service module which provided life support and rocket thrust, and the lunar module, named Aquarius, which was slated to be jettisoned after the moon landing.

But when the explosion disabled the service module, Aquarius became a lifeboat for the astronauts as they headed home after circling the moon. The actual trip back would be done in the command module.

It was in the separation of the lunar and command modules that the Toronto team played a vital role.

Rockets that usually would have split the two vehicles were inoperable and it was decided to use pressure in the tunnel that connected the two units to perform the manoeuvre.

A ring of explosives located just 10 centimetres from the command module's hatch would blow away the tunnel connecting the lunar module and the re-entry command module.

The University of Toronto team was asked to figure out exactly how much pressure was needed to separate the two modules.

"If the pressure was too low, the two parts of the spacecraft would not be pushed apart with sufficient speed," said Ben Etkin, who was part of the University of Toronto Institute of Aerospace Studies team who helped in the rescue. "Above a certain pressure, the shock wave caused by the explosive could damage the entry hatch to the re-entry module."

Etkin said if the hatch had been damaged it could have meant death for the astronauts during their return.

Forty years later, the Canadian Air and Space Museum is making sure the critical contribution made by the University of Toronto team does not slip by unnoticed.

Several team members will be at the museum near Toronto on Tuesday to receive the Pioneer award. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Lessons learned

- NASA classed the Apollo 13 mission as a "successful failure" because of the lessons learned in rescuing the three crew members.

News in brief

HST An increase in the harmonized sales tax in Nova Scotia has some worried the province is making itself less competitive as it earns the tag as the highest-taxed jurisdiction in Canada. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Man pulled from Rideau River dies in hospital

A man has died in an Ottawa hospital after being pulled from a car that was found early yesterday morning in the Rideau River in Manotick. Police were called to the river at about 3:45 a.m. and found a vehicle partly submerged. Paramedics unsuccessfully tried to revive the man, whose identity has not been released. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Tenants shielded from HST

Renters won't pay new harmonized tax on utilities: Report

Ontario's 1.3 million renter households will be protected from rent increases due to the HST, the Toronto Star has learned.

In advance of the new tax taking effect in July, sources say the Liberal government will close a loophole in rent regulations that would have allowed landlords to make tenants pay HST costs on utilities.

Instead, HST costs for utilities will be reflected in the annual rent increase guideline that is based on the annual Consumer Price Index.

The announcement is expected this week.

Landlord groups had warned the HST would increase residential rents by 2.5 per cent to three per cent and cost the average tenant $270 to $320 more per year.

Anti-poverty advocates have also urged the province to shield tenants from rent increases due to the HST.

"If a change wasn't made to ensure the HST couldn't be passed on to tenants, it would have been a significant and unsustainable burden on low-income families and individuals," said Adam Spence of the Ontario Association of Foodbanks.

"It would have taken a lot of food off people's plates."

For families and individuals who rely on food banks, rent is the single largest expense, accounting for about 65 per cent of their income, said Spence.

The government feels the move is fair to landlords, who will see HST costs for utilities reflected in the annual rent increase guidelines as well as in the rents they set for new tenants.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

46 In the GTA, more than 46 per cent of tenants paid more than 30 per cent of their income on rent, the highest of any metropolitan area in Canada.

RICK EGLINTON/THE TORONTO STAR

Elaine Magil briefs some of her recent students as part of one of WoodGreen Community Services' financial literacy programs.

Newcomers learning the 123s of Canada

FINANCE Back in Mumbai, Hazel D'Souza did most financial transactions in cash, so knew nothing about the hidden fees charged to her Canadian bank card.

She likely wishes could have enrolled sooner in a financial literacy program now offered at Toronto's WoodGreen Community Services. The course helps newcomers manage their personal finances in Canada and avoid the pitfalls associated with high-interest credit, service charges and other money matters.

WoodGreen receives funding from Citizenship and Immigration Canada for the pilot program, called Financial Literacy for Newcomers.

"We found that quite often, newcomers lack the language, terminologies and knowledge in financial services in Canada. That sometimes get them into all sort of trouble, losing money and getting into debt," said Shaida Addetia, WoodGreen's settlement services manager.

"We want to help them make informed decisions."

The course covers everything from attitudes about money to credit and debit, taxes and RSPs.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

News in brief

TURBINES Three University of Toronto students have determined that the winds near Hydro Place, at 700 University Ave., would be insufficient to make a wind turbine economically viable given current economic conditions. They will present their findings at a showcase today, along with other student projects dedicated meant to find solutions to problems in the city, such as making cycling on Bloor Street safer and improving public signage. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

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Manitoba government's wage policy could bring backlash
Manitoba's push to freeze public wages could cost it volunteers in the next election campaign, a union leader has warned. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Ottawa in denial on pensions: Insiders

Older Canadians struggling to pay for shelter and food can be forgiven for shrugging at the latest public talk-fest on pension shortcomings, which continues with Finance Minister Jim Flaherty's roundtable discussion in Winnipeg today.

In the wake of the recession, the golden years appear increasingly bleak for many Canadians. Nearly a third of all families lack any pension savings, and 1.6 million seniors at the low end of the wealth scale are trying to get by on less than $15,000 a year.

An aging populace, coupled with strained government finances, has prompted calls for action. Prime Minister Harper's government has responded with expressions of concern and has started working with the provinces on better retirement security.

But many who follow the issue say the Conservatives are in denial about the severity of the pension crisis and are unlikely to do much to prevent millions of retirees from falling into poverty.

In the past year, in probing the pension situation, the government has succeeded in partly defusing the issue and playing down the urgency expressed by advocates of pension reform.

Finance Minister Jim Flaherty

Asked what he expected to take away from a town-hall meeting last week on pensions, Flaherty said, "I expect to hear that there are some gaps in the system (but) that overall the system is working relatively well.

"There are some areas in the research that indicate that perhaps some middle-class Canadians are not saving adequately for their future, and if that's so, that has to concern all of us."

But even while conducting talks on how to fix the retirement security system, Flaherty stresses that Canada's is one of the best in the world. Improving Canadians' pensions is a complex undertaking and policy-makers must be cautious about change, Flaherty says.

"The first thing is, don't do any harm to a system that works," he repeats.

Government insiders say the right-wing finance chief isn't disposed to support any sweeping, national project like increasing contributions to the Canada Pension Plan (CPP). Partly, it goes against Flaherty's philosophy that private solutions are better than government solutions, insiders say. Also, facing budget deficits totaling $158 billion by 2014, the Conservatives are in no position to invest billions of dollars to bolster pensions.

So the current public consultations, which will feed into a meeting of federal and provincial finance ministers in May or June, appear unlikely to lead quickly to an overhaul of the pension system.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

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U.S. coal mine death toll now 29

Crews have begun the grim task of carrying bodies out of a West Virginia mine coal mine shattered by an explosion that left 29 men dead. Meanwhile, U.S. President Barack Obama is awaiting a report on the mine, which has recorded a long list of safety violations, and Congress is planning hearings. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

World

Shroud of Turin on display again

The Shroud of Turin, believed to be the burial cloth of Jesus Christ, went on public display Saturday for the first time in a decade. Over the next six weeks, about two million people are expected to view the linen bearing the faded image of a bearded man. Each visitor will be allowed five minutes to stand before the bulletproof, climate-controlled case containing the cloth inside northern Italy's Turin Cathedral, where it has been kept for 500 years. In that time, the public has been allowed to view it on only five different occasions. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Tragedy has bitter irony for Poles

RUSSIA The leader of Poland's government in exile while the nation was under Soviet-backed rule. The shipyard worker whose firing sparked the labour uprising that ultimately toppled communism here. A banking head who helped keep the country stable while the rest of the European Union plunged into recession.

When Poland lost its president and top military brass Saturday in a plane crash that killed 96, it also lost much of its living history and other elite members of society.

It is a supreme bitterness that they died near, of all places, Russia's Katyn forest, where thousands of Polish officers were slain by Soviet forces in World War II in an attempt to eliminate some of the country's brightest.

"This is so very much like Katyn, where our head was cut off," former president Lech Walesa said. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Poland grieves deaths

Bodies of president, leaders return home after plane crash

Poland's government moved swiftly yesterday to show that it was staying on course after the deaths of its president and dozens of political, military and religious leaders, even as tens of thousands of Poles expressed their grief over the plane crash in Russia that shocked the country.

New acting chiefs of the military were already in place and an interim director of the central bank was named yesterday, with work running as usual, said Pawel Gras, a government spokesman.

It was a rare positive note on a day wracked by grief for the 96 dead and laced with reminders of Poland's dark history with its powerful neighbour. The Saturday crash occurred in thick fog near the Katyn forest, where Josef Stalin's secret police in 1940 systematically executed thousands of Polish military officers in the former Soviet Union.

President Lech Kaczynski and those aboard the aging Soviet-built plane had been headed there to honour the dead.

Tens of thousands of Poles softly sang the national anthem and tossed flowers at the hearse carrying the 60-year-old Kaczynski's body yesterday to the presidential palace after it was returned from Russia's Smolensk airport, the site of the crash.

The coffin bearing the president's remains were met first by his daughter Marta, whose mother, the first lady, Maria Kaczynska, also perished in the crash. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

PETR DAVID JOSEK/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Thousands of candles are seen on Warsaw's Pilsudski Square, as people gather to pay respects to those killed aboard the Polish presidential plane that crashed Saturday.

News in brief

JERUSALEM Israel's leaders yesterday expressed deep sorrow over the death of Polish president Lech Kaczynski, calling him a true friend of the Jewish people and praising his efforts to heal scars from the Holocaust. The Nazis erected death camps on Polish soil — killing more than 3 million Jews, most of them from Poland. That strained Polish-Israeli relations after the Second World War. In recent years, ties improved dramatically and Israel considered the Kaczynski-led Poland to be among its staunchest European allies. Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu opened a Cabinet meeting yesterday by eulogizing Kaczynski and calling him "a great friend of the state of Israel." THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Sudanese to decide political future of president indicted on war crime.
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Turkey PM criticizes Israeli nuclear program
Turkey's prime minister says the world is turning a blind eye to Israel's nuclear program and he intends to raise the issue at the nuclear summit in Washington. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Anti-Semitic acts in Europe hit new high in 2009: Study

Violent attacks against Jews worldwide more than doubled last year, fuelled by a Muslim backlash in Europe in the aftermath of Israel's invasion of Gaza, according to a report released yesterday.

The Tel Aviv University study reported 1,129 anti-Semitic incidents last year, ranging from vandalism and arson against Jewish targets to beatings of Jews. The figure, up from 559 incidents the previous year, was the highest since the survey began more than 20 years ago.

The steepest increase in anti-Semitic violence occurred in western Europe, especially Britain and France, where protests and anger by Muslim residents boiled over after Israel's invasion of Gaza in December 2008, said the report, compiled by the university's Stephen Roth Institute for the Study of Contemporary Anti-Semitism and Racism.

The Israeli invasion, launched in response to years of Palestinian rocket attacks, killed some 1,400 Palestinians, including hundreds of civilians, according to local officials and human rights groups. Thirteen Israelis also died in the fighting.

374 Incidents in Britain shot up to 374 from 112 in 2008, and to 195 from 50 in France.

Dina Porat, the report's editor, said protests against the war often led to incitement, which in turn erupted into physical violence. "The political goals are imbued with anti-Jewish sentiment, equations of Jews to Nazis," she said.

She said the study tracked only instances of physical violence against Jewish targets. "Verbal violence is violence of course, but we don't count it. Violence we regard as physical, and here we have clear indications."

SEBASTIAN SCHEINER/AP PHOTO

A Jewish man looks at an exhibit showing the Nazi flag during a visit yesterday to Yad Vashem Holocaust Memorial in Jerusalem. The annual Israeli memorial day for the six million Jews killed in the Holocaust began at sundown.

For the first time in the report's history, incidents carried out by Muslims eclipsed those by right-wing extremists in cases where the perpetrator was identified, the report said.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Israeli PM complains about Iran's nukes

MIDEAST The spectre of Iran hovered over the start of Israel's annual memorial day for the six million Jews killed by Nazis in the Holocaust as Israeli leaders warned of an Iranian nuclear program they believe is aimed at weapons production.

Benjamin Netanyahu

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu complained bitterly about international reaction to what he called Iran's drive toward nuclear bombs and its intention to destroy Israel, but he did not hint at a possible Israeli response.

"We encounter in the best case a limp reaction, and even that is fading," Netanyahu said yesterday. "We do not hear the necessary rejection, no harsh denunciation, no outcry."

Netanyahu spoke at Yad Vashem in Jerusalem, Israel's official Holocaust memorial authority, before hundreds of Holocaust survivors and their families, Israeli leaders, diplomats and others. A military honour guard stood at one side of the podium while a girls' choir took position on the other.

"If we have learned anything from the Holocaust," Netanyahu said, "it is that we must not be silent or be deterred in the face of evil."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

News in brief

EUROPE Survivors of the Buchenwald concentration camp have been joined by U.S. veterans and German dignitaries at a ceremony marking the 65th anniversary of its liberation. The U.S. Army freed Buchenwald April 11, 1945. Some 56,000 people died at the Nazi camp, including Jews, communists, Gypsies and others from across central Europe.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Adoption advocates face challenges in placing Haitian children

Logistical challenges lie ahead as advocates of adoption press for changes that might enable thousands of Haitian children to be placed in U.S. homes. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

GREEK POLICE/HANDOUT

From top left, Christoforos Kortesis, 41, Evangelos Stathopoulos, 32, Panagiota Roupa, 41, and bottom, from left, Konstantinos Gournas, 30, Nikolaos Maziotis, 39, Sarados Nikitopoulos, 32, are shown. Police arrested seven people suspected of belonging to one of the country's most militant guerrilla groups and taking part in bomb attacks.

Greek rebels arrested

Group accused of violent attacks on U.S. Embassy, police

Greek police have arrested six people suspected of being members of Revolutionary Struggle, a terrorist group accused of a rocket strike against the U.S. Embassy and the shooting of a riot policeman, authorities said yesterday.

The five men and one woman, all in their 30s, were detained Saturday and will appear before a prosecutor to be charged with membership in Revolutionary Struggle, police spokesman Athanasios Kokalakis said.

A computer seized in one of three houses searched in the Athens area contained proclamations regarding terrorist attacks and plans for future attacks, including detailed road maps of possible attack sites. Police also found notes and bombmaking material.

About 150 masked youths in the central Athens district of Exarchia set fire to trash bins a few minutes after the police made the announcement. Some also threw stones at police searching a house in the district, known as a haven for anarchists.

Police responded with tear gas and made one arrest. Police have been searching the house since late Saturday in connection with the Revolutionary Struggle case.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Organized revolt

- Revolutionary Struggle has claimed responsibility for several attacks, including the shooting of a riot policeman last year and an anti-tank rocket strike against the U.S. Embassy in 2007.

Kyrgyz interim leader demands trial for deposed president

KYRGYZSTAN The head of Kyrgyzstan's interim government said yesterday that the Central Asian country's deposed president must face trial, rescinding an earlier offer of security guarantees for him.

President Kurmanbek Bakiyev warned from his home village in the south against any attempt to arrest him, saying it will trigger bloodshed

Roza Otunbayeva's statement reflected the toughening of the new authorities' stance as they grow increasingly impatient with the ousted Bakiyev's refusal to step down. Otunbayeva and others had earlier offered Bakiyev a safe passage out of the country if he resigned voluntarily.

Kurmanbek Bakiyev

The stalemate has left Kyrgyzstan's near-term stability in doubt, a worry for the West because of the U.S. air base in Kyrgyzstan that is a crucial element in the international military campaign against the Taliban in Afghanistan.

Bakiyev fled the capital, Bishkek, on Wednesday after a protest rally against corruption, rising utility bills and deteriorating human rights exploded into police gunfire and chaos that left at least 81 people dead and sparked protesters to storm government buildings.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

News in brief

THAILAND Anti-government protesters dug into their encampments around Bangkok and rejected talk of negotiations yesterday after a monthlong standoff escalated into clashes that killed 21 people in Thailand's worst political violence in nearly two decades. At least 874 people were injured in what one newspaper called the "Battle for Bangkok." Protesters are demanding that the current prime minister dissolve parliament, call early elections and leave the country.

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Norwegian media report bishop is in hiding
Former bishop Georg Mueller has been hiding at a Rome convent since news broke that he admitted to child abuse. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Out-of-touch Pontiff?

Pope's ivory-tower reputation could mar his legacy

Long before entering Vatican life, Pope Benedict XVI won renown as a theologian and a German university professor, penning more than 40 books and winning a devoted following of students for his prodigious memory and brilliant mind.

AP/GETTY IMAGES

Pope Benedict XVI leads the Regina Caeli prayer yesterday from his residence in Castel Gandolfo.

One thing absent from his resume? Significant time as a parish priest.

Joseph Ratzinger, the future pope, only worked 15 months tending to a flock in the 59 years since taking his vows, instead closing himself in the ivory tower of academia — a background that may help account for his troubled handling of the sex abuse crisis engulfing the church.

For one, it adds to the impression of an out-of-touch pontiff who simply doesn't grasp the enormity of the fury around the world over mounting evidence of sex abuse by priests, and inaction on the part of the Vatican and Benedict himself.

Benedict's very legacy will be shaped by whether this aging pontiff, who turns 83 Friday, can embrace a new openness and express remorse in straightforward language free of the stilted defensiveness of many Vatican pronouncements to date.

"Pope Ratzinger, more lucid than many of his defenders, must keep from being suffocated by Prof. Ratzinger,'' Marco Politi, a Vatican reporter, wrote in a column last week in the daily Il Fatto.

But in his native Germany, the prominent Der Spiegel magazine has already declared his papacy a failure, speaking in its most recent issue of "the tragedy of a man who had set out to write books and, only near the end of his life, was summoned to assume the Herculean office at the Vatican."

Even the pope's staunchest admirers say he's not the best manager.

"Benedict XVI is only infallible as an authoritative teacher of the faith, not as an administrator," noted the Rev. Joseph Fessio, who wrote his doctoral dissertation under Ratzinger and participates in the annual "student circle" discussions Benedict hosts with his former students.

Some of Benedict's critics, however, say the pope's real problems lie mainly with a practice of surrounding himself with unqualified advisers.

"He doesn't have grade-A types around him — but he picked them," said the Rev. Richard McBrien, a theologian at the University of Notre Dame and frequent critic of the pope.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Pope offers condolences to Poland

• Pope Benedict XVI offered condolences to Poland yesterday following a plane crash that killed the country's president and other senior officials, saying he was praying for the victims and the "beloved" Polish nation. Poles holding up the red-and-white banners of the Polish flag sang mournfully after the pope spoke during his noon blessing from the papal retreat in Castel Gandolfo. Benedict said he had learned with sadness of the crash and the deaths.

Kenyan child-abuse investigation stalled

CHURCH After three young men and a boy told police last June an Italian priest had been sexually molesting them for years at a shelter for poor children, the most senior Roman Catholic cleric in Kenya announced the church would investigate thoroughly.

Ten months later, nothing has been investigated by the church, its lawyer says, and the Vatican has not been notified.

The accused priest, the Rev. Renato Kizito Sesana, continues to run the facility along with other shelters on the outskirts of Nairobi.

Kenyan police say they found no evidence and believe Sesana is innocent. Sesana himself has denied the allegations, saying some of his accusers may have been bribed or coerced as part of a plan to seize church assets worth up to $5.3 million.

It is unclear whether the abuse took place or not, but the church's response — or lack of it — has inspired furious debate in Kenya. The case is being closely watched amid questions into the Roman Catholic Church's ability to deal with sexual predators among its clergy around the world following reports that church authorities ignored or covered up allegations against priests in Europe and America.

"The church was not one of the places we paid much attention to when we were looking at issues of children's abuse,'' said Millie Odhiambo, a director of Cradle, a children's rights group, and a member of parliament. "There was always this presumption that the church is safe. We are now focusing attention even on the church.''

Odhiambo is not satisfied with the probe by police, who are widely seen in Kenya as inept and corrupt, and says the church should have carried out an independent inquiry. She says a further official investigation is also needed.

Kenya's attorney general has promised further investigations but it is unclear what, if any, action has been taken.

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Comment

Patience needed for station repairs

InTransit

Most Toronto subway stations are more than 40 years old. Many look older thanks to cracked floors, damaged walls and holes in the ceiling. TTC officials assure me the subway is structurally sound but do admit station appearance has been a low priority — until now.

They say the system is gradually becoming cleaner and if the City of Toronto approves funding, most damaged walls and floors should be fixed within six years.

I toured the work underway at Spadina and St. George stations with TTC superintendent Gary Shortt and agreed the renewed wall materials are a definite improvement.

Yet so many flaws remain at these and other stops that it could seem a long six years.

Transit crews will respond quickly to certain issues such as graffiti, but everything else must wait. Riders can be forgiven if they feel some items have been forgotten entirely — like decrepit washrooms or that Don Mills station stairway with a wood step.

In contrast, I've used the new 311 service to report potholes and other problems on City of Toronto streets and sidewalks. I was offered tracking numbers and most issues were resolved promptly.

Like the TTC, Toronto's road system is underfunded, but at least the city's communication channels are open.

To the TTC's credit, it has worked closely with Yonge Street businesses to track overdue repairs at key downtown stations. Alas, few have been fixed.

If we are ever going to rejuvenate our aged stations, the commission must enlist local residents and firms to help secure funding.

Toronto-based transport writer Ed Drass covers transit issues every Monday; transit@eddrass.com.

Views

Reaching the fork in life's crossroads

HineSight

Today is my final column. In a few weeks I'll start my first charge as a United Church of Canada minister. It's the practice of my church to assign new pastors to churches that can't otherwise attract a minister.

Usually, this is because these places can't offer perks such as, I don't know, proximity to a major city ... indoor plumbing ... protection from wolves. All I can say is, a spiritual life is not for sissies.

Last week I invited readers to send in questions on ... just about anything.

One reader asked, "How can I stop worrying?" Remember, worrying is the Spanx® of the emotional spectrum. You feel like you're doing something to address the problem but really you're not. Why bother?

Yasmeen asked, "How can I get rid of the squirrels in my attic?" There's nothing more annoying than trying to sleep while squirrels are enjoying intimate relations above your head. And, yes, Yasmeen, I know a 99.9 per cent effective method of squirrel removal. Collect some TNT, a burlap sack and a rocket launcher and message me back.

Lorraine asked, "What's your philosophy of life?" I'm with the Buddhists, who say life is a constant round of building up and falling away, building up and falling away. Our task is to become as comfortable with the falling away as we are with the times of building.

So, when I find myself at a crossroad in life, or feeling that everything I've built is "falling away," I sit back, open myself to the universe and repeat the mantra "Ohmygodnooooooooooo!" at the top of my lungs.

So far, this hasn't helped much. But then, life is a work in progress, isn't it?

Keep in touch via annehines.com.

And thanks to all. I've loved sharing your Monday mornings!

Anne Hines is an author and humour writer. She has written three novels and one collection of nonfiction humour.

MICHAEL DE ADDER

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Mastercard to open web mall

MasterCard is getting into the predictive online marketing business. Through a partnership with an Internet company that specializes in personalized shopping, MasterCard is set to launch a web mall today that it says can pinpoint with considerable accuracy what its cardholders are likely to purchase. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Business

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EDITOR: FERMIN.DESOUZA@METRONEWS.CA

Stadium Texas take down

RONALD MARTINEZ/GETTY IMAGES

More than 20,000 people gathered at tailgate parties and other spots yesterday to watch fireworks go off one last time over Texas Stadium before a ton of dynamite lit up the Dallas Cowboys' longtime home in Irving and brought it to the ground. The stadium opened in 1971 and the Cowboys played there until the end of the 2008 season.

Business in brief

LAWSUIT Siemens Canada is suing industrial giant J.D. Irving Ltd. and three other companies for $40 million in damages after two huge nuclear turbine rotors fell into Saint John harbour and sustained significant damage in 2008. The Burlington-based Canadian unit of Siemens says in a statement of claim in Ontario court that an Irving subsidiary and the other transportation companies breached their contracts. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Lifeline for Greece

Eurozone nations offer debt-laden country loans

Desperate to halt the Greek debt crisis that has hammered the euro, fellow eurozone governments tossed it a financial lifeline yesterday, saying they would make €30 billion ($40 billion) in loans available this year alone — if Athens asks for the money.

The International Monetary Fund stands ready to chip in another €10 billion, said Olli Rehn, the EU monetary affairs chief.

The promise — filling in details of a March 25 pledge of joint eurozone-IMF help — was another attempt to calm markets that have been selling off Greek bonds in recent days. Markets viewed the March pledge as too vague and carrying such tough restrictions that made it difficult for Greece to access any money.

As a result, investors demanded high rates to loan to the government as it struggles to avoid default and pay some €54 billion in debt coming due this year — rates the government says it can't go on paying.

In an emergency video conference, the finance ministers of the 16 eurozone nations agreed on a complex three-year financing formula that generates an interest rate of "around 5 per cent."

This is less than commercial market rates —which have soared above 7 per cent on Greek 10-year borrowing in recent weeks as the debt crisis dragged on — but more than beneficiaries of IMF usually pay. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

NIKOLAS GIAKOUMIDIS/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Demonstrators protest outside the Greek Orthodox Cathedral in Thessaloniki, Greece yesterday. The Greek government will tax the Church's landholdings to gather revenue to help overcome the country's largest debt crisis in decades.

Competition for Porter?

AIRPORT The Toronto Port Authority has issued a request for proposals that paves the way for additional carriers to fly out of the island airport. The agency, which owns and operates the downtown airport, is taking these steps to "diversify the number of destinations offered in an effort to meet the demands of our business and leisure travellers," according to port authority president and CEO Geoff Wilson.

Currently Porter Airlines is the lone carrier using the airport, but the port authority has received "informal expressions of interest" from Air Canada and a U.S.-based commercial carrier.

Once the new terminal is completed in November, it's expected the island airport will be able to accommodate an additional 90 "slots" — take offs or landings — per day. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Cash-strapped Dubai names team to drag its economy out of the muck.

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Employment up last month

STATSCAN Employment continued to edge up in Ontario and across the country in March.

But the modest job gains weren't enough to keep the dollar from dipping below parity, after Statistics Canada reported employment gains of 10,000 in Ontario and about 18,000 in total across the country.

"The Canadian economy is building momentum and we are still very close to parity and will probably tread around these levels for an extended period," said Benjamin Reitzes, economist with BMO Capital Markets. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Ontario

NOTICE TO SECURITY INDUSTRY WORKERS

On April 15, 2010, a new regulation prescribing basic training and testing requirements for security guards and private investigators will come into force.

New Applicants

New applicants for a security guard or private investigator licence, who have not been licensed by April 15, 2010, will have to complete a basic training course and pass the prescribed test before their application can be considered.

Existing Licence Holders

Existing licensees do not need to take the basic training course if they pass the test before the renewal of their licence.

Those whose licences **expire between April 15 and July 15, 2010,** will not be required to pass the test until their 2011 renewal.

Those whose licences **expire on or after July 16, 2010,** will have to pass the test before the expiry of their current licences in order to renew them.

Training and Testing

Training will be available through licensed agencies, public universities and colleges, and private career colleges. Registered business entities may also train their own employees.

The test will be available after April 15 and individuals may write the test more than once if necessary. However, existing licensees must pass the test before their renewal date.

For more information, please visit the ministry's website at www.ontario.ca/securitytraining or call the Private Security and Investigative Services Branch, Ministry of Community Safety and Correctional Services at 416-212-1650 or toll-free at 1-866-767-7454.

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CP Rail, maintenance workers reach deal
Calgary-based Canadian Pacific Railway Ltd. and the union representing workers that build and maintain track and machinery reached a tentative three-year contract late Saturday. CP Rail is Canada's second-biggest rail operator. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Watchdog turns up the heat on CREA

The federal competition watchdog has accused Canada's real estate industry of threatening to ban brokers who attempt to offer a range of services from using its popular Multiple Listing Service.

The Competition Bureau's allegations came in its latest reply as part of its ongoing case against the Canadian Real Estate Association, the group that represents some 98,000 Canadian real estate brokers.

"In cases where small-scale entry by alternative business models has occurred, CREA and its members have disciplined such entrants, exploiting the barriers CREA has erected through its rule-making and rule-enforcing powers," it said Friday.

Unless CREA and its members are restrained by an order from the Competition Tribunal, the bureau says they "will continue to have the incentive, the opportunity and the ability to enact and enforce MLS restrictions that prevent or will likely prevent competition substantially."

> **"In cases where small-scale entry by alternative business models has occurred, CREA and its members have disciplined such entrants."**
> Competition Bureau

The bureau has said that loosening restrictions on the MLS, where 90 per cent of Canadian homes are sold, could allow homesellers to use a realtor to post their home for a flat fee and then conduct the rest of the sale themselves.

CREA has repeatedly denied the bureau's accusations that consumers must purchase a bundle of services from realtors in order to sell their house on the MLS.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Pharmacies in Ontario threaten closures over fees

DISPUTE Ontario pharmacists say vulnerable patients will be caught in the crossfire in a fee dispute with the provincial government. At issue is how much pharmacies can charge for generic drugs.

An Ontario proposal would force pharmacies to charge no more than 25 per cent of the cost of an equivalent brand-name drug when dispensing a generic version. Currently, they can bill patients 50 per cent of the brand name's price.

"This approach has put the entire profession and independent pharmacy into peril," pharmacist Donnie Edwards, who owns an IDA in Ridgeway, Ont., said of the plan. "The changes will force many of these pharmacies to reduce their hours, cut back pharmacy services, and some will be forced to close all together."

Meantime, community pharmacists are also demanding an apology from Ontario Health Minister Deb Matthews for what they called a challenge to their integrity.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Power price rise worries industry

ENERGY Manufacturing companies will meet Ontario energy ministry officials this week to voice increased concern about rising electricity prices after 184 renewable power contracts were awarded last week.

High prices mean higher costs, said Ian Howcroft, Ontario vice-president of Canadian Manufacturers and Exporters. "Some of the members we represent have real concerns about their future ability to operate in Ontario," he said.

Bruce Sharp of Aegent Energy Advisors had predicted power prices would rise about $304 a year for a typical household because of the harmonized sales tax, time-of-use pricing and other factors.

But with the renewable power contracts, he says a more likely figure is an increase of $377 per household by the end of 2011.

The new contracts for wind, solar and water-powered generation will pay the companies an average of 15.2 cents a kilowatt hour, Sharp says. That's close to four times the standard market price.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Business in brief

CHINA For the first time in six years, China's imports in March outpaced its exports, leaving a $7.24 billion US shortfall that Beijing says reflects a trend toward more balanced trade. Last month's trade deficit with the rest of the world may buy China some respite from building pressure to revalue its currency, though its surpluses with the U.S. and Europe remain as robust as ever.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Going Green

Future shock

The book Storms of My Grandchildren lays all the cards on the table in this thorough, detailed analysis of the history, science and politics of climate change, a Silent Spring-style warning cry that predicts "a rough ride" for our grandchildren. METRO NEWS SERVICES

EDITOR: BEN.RYCROFT@METRONEWS.CA

In brief

HOLD YOUR BRAKES Rapid acceleration and braking can lower your gas mileage by five per cent around town and 33 per cent on the highway, or an average of $0.55 per gallon. And, you get less mileage for your money (23 per cent less or $0.67 per gallon) if you drive over 60 mph. Savings: $1.22 per gallon, or $634 per year.
METRO NEWS SERVICES

Weed out chemicals from lawn

BEN KNIGHT
for Metro Canada

Were you working on your lawn this weekend? Are you dreaming of a summer of lush, green grass at the front or back of your home?

Pesticides and herbicides were a fact of gardening life in this part of the world for decades. But with pesticides banned in Halifax, the provinces of Ontario and Quebec, and a growing list of communities all over Canada, is it still possible to get the green, weed-free grassy expanse so many of us desire?

"The only thing you're giving up is an unsustainable monoculture and the nasty smell and toxic fumes," says Sharyn Inward, executive assistant with Green Communities Canada in Peterborough, Ont.

If you think it's going to be frustrating and difficult to green your green, Inward is delighted to disagree.

"The first thing you want to do at this time of year is rake your lawn" Inward says. "Just picking up stuff that has matted in there. It's call dethatching. All that stuff is valuable mulch.

"Then you aerate, and that's just poking holes in the lawn. You can use a pitchfork, and there's also special spiked shoes, or you can have a commercial landscaper come by and do it for you."

Overseeding your lawn thickens the grass. Letting it grow two to two-and-a-half inches tall makes it almost impossible for weeds to take hold.

"What people can also do is grow clover. It actually feeds the grass because it fixes nitrogen in the soil. And clover is green! You can encourage this slow-growing plant to complement your grass, and feed it at the same time to make your lawn a bit greener than your neighbour's in the middle of the summer when there's a drought."

There are many ways to grow a lush lawn without using harmful herbicides and pesticides, experts say.

Go online

- For more information, check out greencommunitiescanada.org

Inward says good grass rises — literally and directly — from well-maintained soil. And it's not just your grass that benefits.

Pets and people become a lot safer when aggressive, destructive chemicals are put aside. Inward cautions that dogs are more susceptible to cancer than humans, particularly because of their shorter lifespans.

"The advanced stages of this are to minimize the lawn," she notes

"If you have a shade tree, for example, it's a losing battle to have lawn underneath. You should just mulch the whole area and plant shade plants. And you can also have more garden beds, which are easier to care for than a lawn."

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Sports

Magic centre honours crash victims

Orlando Magic centre Marcin Gortat, left, had more important issues on his mind than basketball yesterday. The native of Poland paid tribute to his homeland's president, who was killed along with 95 others in a plane crash in Russia. Gortat wrote the number of the fatal flight on his sneakers before the Magic played the Cleveland Cavaliers and wrote President Lech Kaczynski's name on the tape around his wrist. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

EDITOR: DON.MCHOULL@METRONEWS.CA

FRANK GUNN/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Toronto Raptors forward Andrea Bargnani and Chicago Bulls forward Hakim Warrick lose control of the ball yesterday.

Raps lose control of playoff destiny

NBA RESULTS

Bulls 104 **Raptors** 88

CHICAGO BULLS VS

Derrick Rose had a game-high 26 points and Joakim Noah narrowly missed his first career triple-double as the Chicago Bulls beat Toronto 104-88 yesterday, overtaking the Raptors for the eighth and final playoff berth in the Eastern Conference.

The win puts the Bulls (39-41) in the driver's seat as the NBA enters the final week of the regular season. Chicago leads Toronto (38-42) by a game in the race for eighth, and will finish its schedule with games Tuesday against Boston (49-30) and yesterday in Charlotte (43-37).

The Raptors, who have lost five straight games, wrap up their regular-season schedule with games today in Detroit (26-54) and Wednesday at home to New York (28-51). Toronto has the tiebreaker edge over the Bulls, meaning the Raptors will earn the final playoff spot in the East if the teams finish tied in the standings.

With Raptors all-star Chris Bosh out for a third straight game with facial fractures, Noah took full advantage for the Bulls. After being held to just nine points in his previous game against Toronto, Noah erupted for 18 points, 19 rebounds and a career high-tying seven assists.

But it was Rose who made the biggest difference yesterday, scoring 10 points in the third quarter as the Bulls turned a 10-point halftime advantage into a crowd-silencing rout.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Emotional win for Mickelson

First tournament for his wife since her cancer diagnosis

Even sweeter than Phil Mickelson slipping into another green jacket was seeing his wife waiting for him behind the 18th green yesterday at Augusta National with tears streaming down her face.

Amy Mickelson had not been at a golf tournament since being diagnosed with breast cancer 11 months ago.

He had not looked the same ever since.

A shattered world seemed at peace in the fading sunlight yesterday at the Masters, where Mickelson made one last birdie for a 5-under 67 and a three-shot victory over Lee Westwood.

It was a forgettable final round for Canadian Mike Weir, who closed with a 5-over 77 to finish tied for 43rd.

The conclusion was far more emotional than anyone expected.

Mickelson shared a long embrace with his wife behind the 18th green, and as he walked to the scoring trailer to sign for the lowest score at Augusta in nine years, a single tear trickled down his cheek to his lip.

"We've been through a lot this year. It means a lot to share some joy together," Mickelson said, his voice cracking has he struggled to keep control. "It's been such an incredible week, an emotional week. And to cap it off with a victory is something I can't put into words.

"It's something we'll share for the rest of our lives."

Determined to win one for his family, Mickelson made two remarkable par saves from the trees, seized control with a 15-foot birdie putt in the heart of Amen Corner and then made a gutsy play with a six-iron off the pine straw and over Rae's Creek on the par-5 13th to set up a birdie. It was the kind of shot that has brought Mickelson so much criticism for taking unnecessary risks.

There was simply no denying him in this Masters.

His final birdie only mattered on the scorecard, 16-under 272, the lowest by a Masters champion since Tiger Woods in 2001. Mickelson had this won as he walked up the 18th fairway to a massive ovation. He raised both arms when the putt fell, had a long embrace with caddie Jim (Bones) Mackay then walked toward the scoring hut and into his wife's arms.

Standing behind them was Mary Mickelson, his mother, who was diagnosed with breast cancer in July.

So ended a Masters unlike any other.

It began with Woods returning from a humiliating sex scandal and brought a sharp rebuke from Masters chairman Billy Payne and scrutiny of his behaviour as he broke par all four rounds and tied for fourth, five shots behind.

It ended in tears for Mickelson and his wife — and in heartache for Westwood, who had his best chance at winning a major end by missing too many short putts.

"Phil being the champion he is hit some great shots coming down the stretch," said Westwood, who closed with a 71 for his best finish ever in a major.

"He's been through hard times recently, and he deserves a break or two."

Anthony Kim closed with a 65, the best score of the tournament, and finished alone in third.

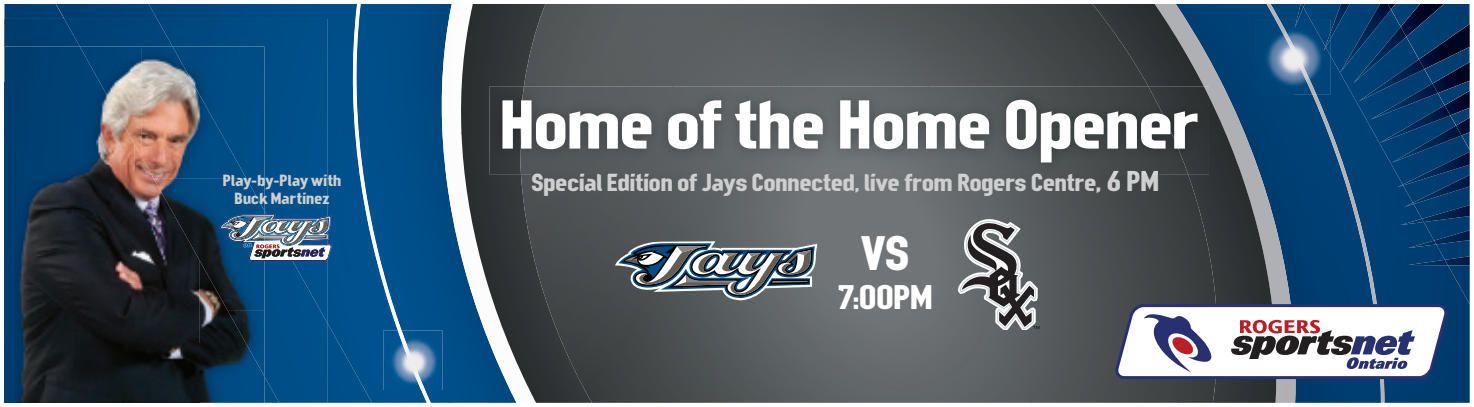
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

MORRY GASH/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Phil Mickelson celebrates on the 18th green after winning the Masters golf tournament in Augusta, Ga., yesterday for the third time in his career. Tiger Woods finished fourth, five strokes back.

Fourth not good enough for Tiger

- Tiger Woods takes little joy in finishing among the leaders at the Masters, even though by most standards his comeback will be deemed a success.
- When Woods strolled off the 18th green, having rolled in a birdie putt that only assured he would finish tied for fourth, he saw no reason to celebrate.
- He had finished five strokes behind winner Phil Mickelson.



Yankees beat Rays

A.J. Burnett pitched seven strong innings and Jorge Posada and Alex Rodriguez drove in two runs apiece yesterday to lead the New York Yankees over the Tampa Bay Rays 7-3. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

GAIL BURTON/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Toronto Blue Jays second baseman John McDonald throws over Baltimore Orioles Matt Wieters yesterday to complete a double play on a ground ball hit by Ty Wigginton. The Jays won 5-2.

Rally against O's lifts record to 5-1

MLB RESULTS

Blue Jays 5 Orioles 2

It's tough enough these days for the Baltimore Orioles to get 27 outs in a winning effort.

Getting 28 outs and a victory proved far too difficult a task yesterday against the Toronto Blue Jays.

Jose Bautista and Alex Gonzalez hit consecutive homers in the eighth inning after a two-out error by Miguel Tejada, and the Blue Jays beat the Orioles 5-2 to complete a three-game sweep and improve to 5-1.

Kevin Millwood (0-1) took a three-hitter and a 2-1 lead into the eighth. The right-hander retired the first two batters before Tejada — a career shortstop now playing third base — misplayed a sharp grounder by John McDonald.

"I wish I could catch that ball. I tried my best," Tejada said.

Bautista then hit a 1-2 pitch into the left-field seats to put Toronto ahead for the first time. Gonzalez followed with his second homer of the game, a drive inside the foul pole in left.

Game over.

"When things aren't going right for you and you give the other club a four-out inning, that's what happens," Orioles manager Dave Trembley said.

It was the first error of the season for Tejada, who has worked hard to make the transition to the hot corner.

"Even (Evan) Longoria, a Gold Glove last year, can make an error. That's an error anybody can make," he said.

Tejada did, however, feel bad for Millwood.

"He pitched a great game. I'm really sorry what just happened," Tejada said. "I wish I could catch the ball and he could win the game.

"But what can I do?"

It was Millwood's second start since coming to the Orioles in an off-season trade with Texas. Before Tejada's error, the only runners to reach were Gonzalez, who homered leading off the fourth, and McDonald, who singled twice and finished with three hits.

"Kevin was pitching great," Toronto manager Cito Gaston said. "He kept our guys off balance most of the day.

"We just got an extra out. Sometimes you give an extra out to your opponent and it comes back to bite you. That happened to him today."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Hot start

- Toronto's Alex Gonzalez has four homers and at least one hit in all six games this season (9 for 26).

SCOREBOARD

NHL

YESTERDAY'S RESULTS

Boston 4 Washington 3 (SO)
Detroit 3 Chicago 2 (OT)
Los Angeles 2 Colorado 1 (OT)
New Jersey 2 Buffalo 1
Philadelphia 2 N.Y. Rangers 1 (SO)
Tampa Bay 3 Florida 1
Pittsburgh 6 N.Y. Islanders 5 (OT)
Edmonton at Anaheim

PLAYOFF MATCHUPS
EASTERN CONFERENCE

Washington (1) vs. Montreal (8)
New Jersey (2) vs. Philadelphia (7)
Buffalo (3) vs. Boston (6)
Pittsburgh (4) vs. Ottawa (5)

WESTERN CONFERENCE

San Jose (1) vs. Colorado (8)
Chicago (2) vs. Nashville (7)
Vancouver (3) vs. Los Angeles (6)
Phoenix (4) vs. Detroit (5)

NBA

YESTERDAY'S RESULTS

Chicago 104 TORONTO 88
Miami 111 New York 98
Orlando 98 Cleveland 92
Portland 91 L.A. Lakers 88
Minnesota at New Orleans
Oklahoma City at Golden State
Houston at Phoenix

MLB

YESTERDAY'S AL RESULTS

Toronto 5 Baltimore 2
Boston 8 Kansas City 6
Chicago White Sox 5 Minnesota 4
Detroit 9 Cleveland 8
N.Y. Yankees 7 Tampa Bay 3
Oakland 9 L.A. Angels 4
Texas 9 Seattle 2

YESTERDAY'S NL RESULTS

Cincinnati 3 Chicago Cubs 1
Colorado 4 San Diego 2
Florida 6 L.A. Dodgers 5
Philadelphia 2 Houston 1
Washington 5 N.Y. Mets 2
Arizona 15 Pittsburgh 6
Atlanta at San Francisco
St. Louis at Milwaukee

TODAY'S AL GAMES

Kansas City (Hochevar 0-0) at Detroit (Scherzer 0-0), 1:05 p.m.
Texas (Harden 0-0) at Cleveland (Carmona 1-0), 3:05 p.m.
Boston (Lester 0-0) at Minnesota (Pavano 1-0), 4:10 p.m.
Oakland (Duchscherer 0-0) at Seattle (Rowland-Smith 0-0), 6:40 p.m.
Tampa Bay (Garza 1-0) at Baltimore (Guthrie 0-1), 7:05 p.m.
Chicago White Sox (Peavy 0-0) at TORONTO (Tallet 1-0), 7:20 p.m.

TODAY'S NL GAMES

Milwaukee (D.Davis 0-0) at Chicago Cubs (Dempster 0-0), 2:20 p.m.
Washington (Marquis 0-1) at Philadelphia (Hamels 1-0), 3:05 p.m.
Houston (W.Rodriguez 0-1) at St. Louis (Wainwright 1-0), 4:15 p.m.
Atlanta (Jurrjens 0-0) at San Diego (Correia 0-1), 6:35 p.m.
Cincinnati (Cueto 0-0) at Florida (Nolasco 0-0), 7:10 p.m.
Pittsburgh (Ohlendorf 0-0) at San Francisco (Zito 1-0), 10:15 p.m.

MLS

SATURDAY'S RESULTS

New England 4 TORONTO FC 1
Chivas USA 2 New York 0
Philadelphia 3 D.C. United 2
Los Angeles 2 Houston 0
FC Dallas 2 Columbus 2
San Jose 2 Chicago 1
Kansas City 1 Colorado 0
Real Salt Lake 2 Seattle FC 2

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DAVE ENSLIN/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Philadelphia Phillie Roy Halladay delivers a pitch yesterday during the first inning against the Houston Astros.

Doc has complete game as Phillies defeat Astros

MLB Roy Halladay gave the Philadelphia Phillies' high-powered hitters a break, and the bullpen a day off.

The former AL Cy Young winner struck out eight in his first NL complete game, and the Phillies completed a sweep of the winless Houston Astros with a 2-1 victory yesterday.

Halladay (2-0) scattered seven hits and retired the last nine Astros in order. Acquired from Toronto in an off-season trade, Halladay pitched his 50th career complete game and outdueled Roy Oswalt (0-2).

"I don't think about it," Halladay said after throwing 111 pitches. "You just go until they tell you you're done. Obviously, if you go out for the ninth, you know you've got a chance to finish it. You just keep running out there until they don't let you anymore."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Toronto gets first look at remade Jays

Big changes since last year

The home opener is a big deal for any baseball team and to get a sense of how much it matters, all you have to do is check out Toronto Blue Jays president Paul Beeston's attire tonight.

"That might be the only day of the year I'll have both a tie and a white shirt on," said Beeston. "There will be no socks — but I've always dressed up for the home opener. It's something quite special."

Back home at the Rogers Centre for the first time in 2010 after a 5-1 start to the year, the Blue Jays are set to host the Chicago White Sox tonight.

Much has changed for the franchise since closing out the home portion of its 2009 schedule with a 5-4 win over the Seattle Mariners, and even the most ardent of die-hards might need a program to keep it all straight.

Headlining the changes, Beeston removed the interim tag from his role as team president, Alex Anthopoulos replaced the fired J.P. Ricciardi as general manager, and ace right-hander Roy Halladay was traded away for prospects.

Anthopoulos, who lost his first two games as GM last season in Baltimore and then dropped this year's opener in Texas, will be hoping for a better result in his home debut.

The 32-year-old Montrealer probably wouldn't mind a start like Pat Gillick's, whose first home game in 1977 was also the franchise's opener, a 9-5 victory over the White Sox. But Anthopoulos will probably want to avoid that club's 54-107 finish.

He'd also likely be more than happy to duplicate Gord Ash's first home game as GM, a 13-1 thumping of Oakland. The finish wasn't so pretty that year either, at 56-88.

On the surface there appear to be parallels for Anthopoulos with both men, but Beeston doesn't see it that way.

"They were completely different scenarios," he said. "The opening game for Pat, there was no expectation. We were still kind of in our neophyte years and we took it from there.

"With Gordie, we were coming off back-to-back World Series, and Gordie had been around for a while."

And now?

"I think it's in between," said Beeston. "I don't think we're that bad a team, we do have a history, we have had success. I think we're now in a position where you want to win."

That's not how the oddsmakers see it.

Other popular players from 2009 to move on include shortstop Marco Scutaro and catcher Rod Barajas. Right-hander Brandon Morrow, shortstop Alex Gonzalez and catcher John Buck are among the key additions still making their first impressions on fans.

A sense of how they feel about it all will be gleaned from the bloated home opener crowd — the Blue Jays cracked 50,000 from 2006-08, but dropped to 48,027 in '09. But a better indication of just how much people are buying into things will be found in the audience's size in the subsequent weeks and months.

The Blue Jays drew 1,876,129 fans in 2009, their lowest total since 2003 and well off last year's count of 2,400,416.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Long odds

- Bodog pegged the Blue Jays over-under for 2010 wins at 70.5, their odds for winning the American League East at 75-1 (for perspective, Baltimore is 30-1) and their odds for winning the wild card at 40-1 (the same as Kansas City).

Top Nationals pitching prospect Stephen Strasburg shines in minor league debut.
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Marseille atop standings
Marseille thrashed Nice 4-1 in the French league yesterday to remain in pole position for the title as rival Lyon dropped points. Marseille tops the standings with 62 points, two clear of Auxerre, which climbed to second place with a 1-0 victory over Nancy. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

No Seguin, no problem Canada hopes

HOCKEY Top NHL draft prospect Tyler Seguin won't be there, but Canada still expects to ice a gold-medal contending team at the IIHF world under-18 hockey championship.

The same problem arises every year for Canada at the spring under-18 event — top players like Seguin of the Plymouth Whalers and Moncton Wildcats defenceman Brandon Gormley being unavailable because of the major junior league playoffs. Seguin's Whalers were eliminated after the under-18 team was unveiled.

Brandon Gormley

But head scout Al Murray says Canada has plenty left over to shoot for gold at the 10-team tournament that begins tomorrow in Belarus, with former Montreal Canadiens coach Guy Carbonneau behind the bench.

"You don't get all the players you want, but we've got terrific depth," said Murray. "It's hard to win without your best, but we feel we have a team that can compete."

Seguin and Windsor's Taylor Hall, 18, are vying to be picked first overall in the NHL draft while Gormley is expected to go in the top 10.

But plenty of other top prospects are on the team, including Prince George forward Brent Connolly and Kingston defenceman Erik Gudbranson, ranked third and fourth, respectively, among North American skaters for the draft by NHL Central Scouting. THE CANADIAN PRESS

ANTONIO CALANNI/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS
Canada's skip Kevin Koe takes a bite out of the gold medal he won yesterday at the world curling championships in Cortina D'Ampezzo, Italy.

'Now we're world champs': Kevin Koe

Another men's championship curling showdown with Norway, another gold medal for Canada.

Edmonton's Kevin Koe stormed out to a 5-1 lead en route to an emphatic 9-3 win over Norway yesterday in the final of the Capital One world men's curling championship.

The win comes less than two months after Edmonton's Kevin Martin beat Norway's Thomas Ulsrud 6-3 to capture the Olympic men's curling title in Vancouver.

The victory capped quite a ride for Koe, whose rink of Blake MacDonald, Carter Rycroft, Nolan Theissen and alternate Jamie King captured the Canadian title last month in Halifax in its first-ever appearance in the Brier.

"It's been such a whirlwind last month and a half for us," said Koe. "It's just been an awesome ride for us and I'm just so happy for the guys.

Bronze medal
- Scotland beat the United States 6-4 to capture the bronze medal yesterday.

"This is a pretty good team and now we're world champs. That's something no one can take away from us."

Ulsrud was slated to again skip Norway at the world championship but never made it on to the ice. He had to return home prior to the tournament due to a family illness, leaving the Norwegian team — which has set the curling world on its ear with its loud, colourful checkered pants — without its leader.

Still, that didn't seem to deter the Norwegians, who finished atop the world tournament standings with a 10-1 record before losing 11-5 to Canada in the 1-versus-2 playoff that clinched the Canadians an automatic berth in yesterday's final. Norway qualified for the championship by downing Scotland in semifinal action Saturday.

In the final, Canada wasted little time taking control of the match.

The rink scored three points in the first end before adding two more in the third for a commanding 5-1 lead. Koe also ended the contest emphatically. With Norway sitting two, he registered a double takeout with his final stone that scored two for the Canadian rink, prompting the Norwegians to shake hands.

"We expected a closer game — they're one of the best teams in the world, but we made some good shots in the first and it was good to get up that three points," Koe said. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Portsmouth reaches FA Cup final after extra-time win

SOCCER Portsmouth reached the FA Cup final by scoring two extra-time goals to beat Tottenham 2-0 yesterday, a day after being relegated from the Premier League in a season where crippling debts almost put the club out of business.

Frederic Piquionne, who is on loan from Lyon, broke the deadlock in the ninth minute of extra time. Former Spurs midfielder Kevin-Prince Boateng added another from the penalty spot 18 minutes later.

Money
- Winning the semifinal will provide about $3 million US in prize money and ticket revenue for Portsmouth, which is still in bankruptcy protection.

"This season encapsulates just about every emotion you can have as a footballer and today has been absolutely superb," said goalkeeper David James, who was the only remaining player in yesterday's starting lineup from the 2008 team that won the title.

Portsmouth manager Avram Grant will come up against former side Chelsea in the May 15 final after the defending champions beat Aston Villa 3-0 yesterday.

It will be a remarkable conclusion to a season for Portsmouth, which became the first Premier League team to go into financial administration last month and has court-appointed insolvency experts running the club while trying to find a buyer.

"This is a great achievement after what's happened this season," Grant said. "I remember arriving at the club one day (in February) and being told that next week there will be no club.

"We have been living on a day-(to)-day basis and despite this we have reached the final."

Portsmouth did that by overcoming a Spurs side managed by Harry Redknapp, who led it to glory on the same pitch two years ago. But winning its first trophy since 1950 came after overspending on player transfer and salaries. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Blazers down Lakers

Martell Webster hit three free throws with 3.1 seconds left and the Portland Trail Blazers improved their chances of avoiding the Los Angeles Lakers in the playoffs with a 91-88 victory over the defending NBA champion Lakers yesterday. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Silva creates stir with UFC fight

A shocking upset, and a shocking performance.

That's the bottom line from UFC 112 in Abu Dhabi, the mixed martial arts juggernaut's first foray into the Middle East.

In the co-main event Saturday, Frankie (The Answer) Edgar dethroned B.J. (The Prodigy) Penn, winning a unanimous decision over a sluggish champion. Penn was a 7-1 favourite going into the fight but was unable to dent the speedy Edgar's buzzsaw boxing attack.

Some might question the 50-45, 48-47, and 49-46 scores but Penn, his left knee bandaged, was not on his game. It was an off night and the Hawaiian paid for it with his title.

Equally shocking was middleweight champion Anderson Silva's bizarre performance in a decision win over Demian Maia in the main event.

Silva clowned his way through five rounds, ridiculing Maia along the way. While it was clear he could hit the outclassed Maia at will, the champion hol-stered his many weapons and danced around the cage as if his goal was to show that the challenger couldn't lay a hand on him.

Silva, an 8-1 favourite, smiled, taunted and cavorted. But the Brazilian star rarely fought. The performance smacked of arrogance, selfishness and disrespect.

It's as if a smirking Sidney Crosby deked a goalie in a shootout and then refused to put the puck past him — again, again and again.

The crowd at the temporary outdoor venue at Yas Island was chanting the bloody Maia's name as the fight ended.

Things got so bad that referee Dan Miragliotta stopped the fight in the fifth round to warn Silva about his refusal to engage.

The judges scored the bout 50-45, 50-45 and 49-46 for Silva. FightMetric, which analyzes MMA bouts, said Silva scored 61 significant strikes to just 10 for Maia.

Maia, whose nose was wrecked by a flying knee in the first round, was game on his feet but could never get through to Silva. A former world jiu-jitsu champion, he was unable to get the fight down to his world — on the ground — failing in 13 takedown attempts.

UFC president Dana White was so disgusted he didn't even enter the cage to wrap the belt around the champion's waist, as he always does. Instead, a UFC employee handed it off to Ed Soares, Silva's manager.

After the fight, Silva tried to make amends.

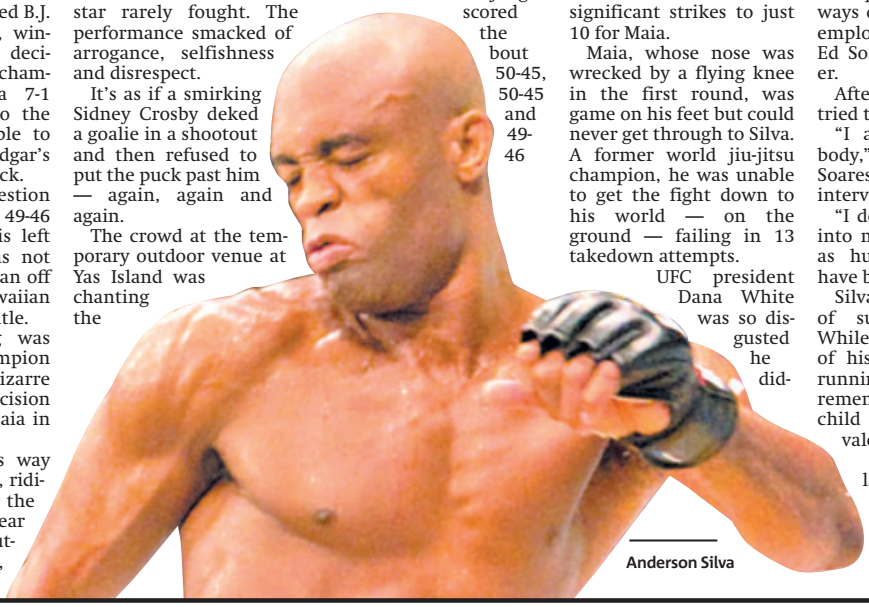
"I apologize to everybody," he said, through Soares, in the post-fight interview.

"I don't know what got into me tonight. I wasn't as humble as I should have been."

Silva (26-4) has a history of such performances. While unbeaten in all 11 of his UFC fights, he is running the risk of being remembered as a problem child rather than MMA's valedictorian.

Silva has won his last 12 fights and has not lost since a defeat by disqualification to Yushin Okami in January 2006. THE CANADIAN PRESS

"I don't know what got into me tonight. I wasn't as humble as I should have been."
Anderson Silva



Anderson Silva

Former Giants outfielder admits to using steroids

BASEBALL Former San Francisco Giants outfielder Marvin Benard admitted he used steroids during the team's 2002 World Series season to deal with a nagging knee injury.

The 40-year-old Benard acknowledged his steroid use to The Associated Press yesterday, when he was in the Bay Area for a reunion of the Giants' 2000 NL West champion team. He said he was coping with his troublesome, surgically repaired left knee at the time and thought steroids would help him stay on the field.

"Yes, I did," Bernard told the AP when asked if he took steroids. "It was what it was. I did some stupid things. I should have never done them. At the time you think you're doing the right thing for the right reason, then you realize you made a mistake and it's too late and you can't take it back.

"You've got to move on. It's not going to change anything. There's nothing that can change it, make it better or make it worse than what happened," he said. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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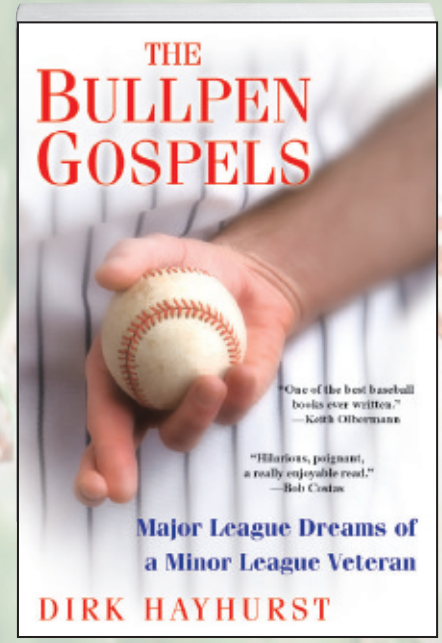

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Heat move into tie for fifth
Dwyane Wade scored 32 points and the Miami Heat pulled into a tie for fifth place in the Eastern Conference with a 111-98 victory over the New York Knicks last night. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

With shootout win, Flyers are in

Philadelphia beats Rangers to claim last NHL post-season spot in the East

NHL RESULTS
Rangers 1 Flyers 2 (SO)

Brian Boucher couldn't make the stops. He opened his arms wide as a blue-line and let all the Flyers in. Danny Briere was first with the celebratory hug. Claude Giroux joined the mob that swarmed Boucher.

The Flyers needed three periods, overtime, and a thrilling shootout in the 82nd game to make the playoffs.

Might as well go wild.

Boucher stopped Olli Jokinen on the final attempt of the shootout to send the Philadelphia Flyers into the playoffs while eliminating the New York Rangers with a 2-1 victory yesterday.

"I think everybody on the bench was thinking about that last shot that he stopped," Briere said. "That was a big rush for us on the bench. I can't imagine what it was for him."

The final game of the regular season felt more like Game 7 of a playoff series. Win and advance; lose and go home.

The Rangers and Flyers felt 65 minutes of pressure in a game with post-season atmosphere, starting with scalpers hawking tickets up and down the streets into the Wachovia Center.

"Hopefully, we can do something with our lifeline here and use the excitement and euphoria from this win and from our last little stretch of games here to propel us and do good things here in the playoffs," defenceman Chris Pronger said.

"Hopefully, we can do something with our lifeline here and use the excitement and euphoria from this win."
Chris Pronger

The Flyers earned the seventh seed in the Eastern Conference and will play New Jersey.

The Rangers forced what was essentially a one-game playoff when they beat the Flyers Friday night. Rangers goalie Henrik Lundqvist was sensational, but Matt Carle tied the game at 1 early in the third period.

Briere and Giroux scored in the shootout for the Flyers. In between, P.A. Parenteau scored for the Rangers.

Lundqvist was stellar in goal, stopping 46 shots from every angle. The Flyers outshot the Rangers by almost a 2-1 margin, but could never slip the puck past the goalie coach John Tortorella expected to carry them into the post-season.

"If it wasn't for that goaltender, I think we would have won this game pretty handily," Boucher said.

"Terrific, just terrific," Tortorella said of Lundqvist.

Lundqvist didn't have the words, other than saying, "it's really hard."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

MATT SLOCUM/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS
Philadelphia players celebrate after winning a shootout yesterday against the New York Rangers.

Crosby reaches 51 in Pens' win

NHL Sidney Crosby finished the regular season with a flourish, scoring twice to reach 50 goals for the first time and adding three assists that helped the Pittsburgh Penguins beat the New York Islanders 6-5 in overtime yesterday.

Jordan Leopold scored at 4:25 of overtime for the Penguins, who will be the No. 4 seed in the Eastern Conference when the NHL playoffs begin this week. The defending Stanley Cup champions will host fifth-seeded Ottawa in their opener.

Crosby's second-period breakaway gave him 51 goals this season, tying him with Tampa Bay's Steven Stamkos for the Maurice Richard Trophy as the league's top goal scorer.

Crosby had three points in the opening 17:03, including his milestone goal in becoming the first Penguins player to score 50 since Jaromir Jagr in 2001-02. Crosby finished with 109 points, tying him with Washington's Alex Ovechkin for second behind Vancouver's Henrik Sedin (112) for the Art Ross Trophy.

Evgeni Malkin complemented Crosby's big game with two goals and two assists.

In his fifth NHL season, Crosby hit the 50-goal milestone for the first time when he scored a power-play goal with 2:57 left in the first to give the Penguins a 3-0 lead. He tipped Malkin's feed past a sliding Dwayne Roloson to finish a 2-on-1 rush, and his teammates immediately greeted him near the boards to celebrate.

Pittsburgh entered assured of the No. 4 seed and a first-round matchup with Ottawa. Penguins coach Dan Bylsma rested goalie Marc-Andre Fleury with his team already securing home-ice advantage.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

50 again?
- Sidney Crosby thought he had his 50th goal Thursday night at home against the Islanders. But the Pittsburgh captain was stripped of that one long after the game when a video replay showed it was scored by Bill Guerin.

Sports in brief

BONDS Home run king Barry Bonds said he is "proud" of slugger Mark McGwire for returning to baseball as the St. Louis Cardinals' hitting coach and for admitting his use of performance-enhancing drugs. "I have a really good friendship with Mark McGwire. I'm proud of him," Bonds said yesterday. "We've had a great relationship throughout our entire lives and throughout our career."

MARLIES Jon Rheault scored a pair of goals to lead the visiting Abbotsford Heat to a 5-2 victory over the Toronto Marlies on the final day of the American Hockey League's regular season yesterday. John Lammers, Shawn Weller and Tyler Spurgeon also scored for Abbotsford in front of 5,514 fans at Ricoh Coliseum.

TENNIS Juan Ignacio Chela of Argentina won his first tournament in more than three years with a 5-7, 6-4, 6-3 victory against American Sam Querrey at the U.S. Men's Clay Court Championships yesterday. The unseeded Argentine turned aggressive in the second set and pulled away from the hard-serving Querrey for his fifth tour championship and his first since beating Carlos Moya in Acapulco in March 2007. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Castroneves wins Indy Grand Prix of Alabama

RACING Helio Castroneves' strategies were all about preservation: First the fuel and then the lead.

Castroneves deftly managed both tasks and held off Scott Dixon to win the inaugural Indy Grand Prix of Alabama yesterday, coasting to the finish line after coming off caution with two laps to go.

The three-time Indianapolis 500 winner took over in the stretch run when Marco Andretti headed to pit road with seven laps to go.

"I felt like I had a better car than Marco but unfortunately, I just couldn't pass him," Castroneves said. "And I was just patient and waiting for an opportunity. I guess we were able to be smart enough to save a lot of fuel.

"Towards the end, we just had a yellow flag. I didn't ask for that, especially when you have Scott Dixon and those guys behind you. I just decided to make sure not to give any opportunities for those guys, and that's what I did."

Castroneves then treated the new IndyCar venue to his Spiderman move, climbing a chain link fence in front of the grandstands and pumping his fists to the fans.

He had to scout for a suitable fence to scale before the race after a fan asked him in his hotel elevator yesterday where he'd do his trademark move.

"Until that point, I didn't have anything in mind," Castroneves said.

He won by just more than half a second over Dixon and nobody else was closer than seven seconds to the lead, making it a two-man chase at the end. He didn't offer any opening for Dixon to get by him on a narrow track that offers few easy spots to pass and makes fuel strategy as important as any daring on-track manoeuvres.

"The only thing you can do is try to push the guy as hard in front of you to make him keep looking in his mirrors and overshoot a corner and make a mistake," Dixon said.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Canadian content
- Alex Tagliani of Lachenaie, Que., finished 10th.

International-student applications to U.S. grad schools up seven per cent

Applications from foreign students to graduate schools in the U.S. are up seven per cent over last year, according to a new survey from the Council of Graduate Schools. Numbers from China are up 19 per cent. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Workology

Reverse plagiarism?

A University of Regina engineering professor has been accused of plagiarizing a former student's work and trying to publish it in an academic journal. When the graduate submitted a paper for publication to the journal in the summer of 2008, he was informed his submission resembled another paper received six months earlier, which listed the student's academic supervisor and three other people as authors. The university's investigation is private at this point. CBC NEWS ONLINE

EDITOR: DOUGLAS.DUNLOP@METRONEWS.CA

Workology in **brief**

STUDENT FIGHTS FOR DEGREE
A University of Ottawa student barred from campus used last week's on-campus appearance by a free-speech advocate to highlight his own battle to finish his degree. Mark Kelly e-mailed students last Wednesday encouraging them to hear him speak at the same time the guest speaker was set to talk about freedom of expression on Canadian university campuses. Kelly was a research assistant to physics professor Denis Rancourt, who was fired last year over a grading dispute. Around the time of Rancourt's suspension and dismissal, Kelly was arrested at a university senate meeting while attempting to videotape the proceedings. Kelly says he needs to complete three more courses to finish his degree.

MCMASTER OPENS MED SCHOOL CAMPUS IN KITCHENER Last Wednesday marked the official opening of the Waterloo Regional Campus of McMaster University's Michael G. DeGroote School of Medicine, located at the Downtown Kitchener Health Sciences Campus of the University of Waterloo.

KINGSTON CONTRIBUTES $6 MILLION TO QUEEN'S PERFORMING ARTS CENTRE
Kingston city council has approved a $6-million contribution towards Queen's University's Isabel Bader Centre for the Performing Arts. The municipal investment was crucial to obtaining $30 million in funding from the federal and Ontario governments for the $63-million centre.

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David Arrigo, an artist at the centre of sport

OddJobs

Diane Peters

Metronews.ca/oddjobs

David Arrigo painted every Canadian gold medal winner at the Vancouver 2010 Olympic Games.

David Arrigo failed Grade 9 art. It bored him. Instead Arrigo, who's now 40, used toothbrushes and any old paint he could find to decorate friends' jean jackets.

Arrigo liked art enough by the end of high school to enrol in a college program for graphic design management. But he dropped out of the program and started taking odd jobs.

He was loading trucks when a former girlfriend — whom he'd long ago painted a jacket for — told the restaurant where she was working about Arrigo. They wanted a wall mural and offered him the job.

He covered the four-foot by four-foot wall with a jazz-themed scene, and the owners loved it. Soon, he was getting mural commissions all over Toronto and within a few months quit his other job.

Around this time, Arrigo picked up a mural painting book in an art supply store. "I got a quarter way through it, and then I tossed it. I can do my own thing." He still refuses to look at art books.

In 1999, he convinced staff at Wayne Gretzky's restaurant to let him paint a massive mural. Around the time he finished the 80-foot by 30-foot piece, Gretzky announced his retirement and was inducted into the Hockey Hall of Fame. Arrigo was asked, at the last minute, to do a mural for the induction ceremony.

Arrigo proved himself by whipping off the piece in 30 hours (the paint was barely dry for the event). That soon led to a commission to do an 18-foot by seven-foot mural of the Leafs that still hangs in the Air Canada Centre today.

A huge hockey fan who began skating at age three, painting hockey greats and other sports scenes was no problem for Arrigo.

He's now gone to two Olympics — including Vancouver, where he painted all the gold medal winners — numerous Super Bowls and NASCAR races, among other events.

Meanwhile, about three years ago, he painted his first goalie mask for Mike Smith of the Dallas Stars. The helmet covered with the Grinch (it was the holiday season and the Jim Carrey movie had just come out) worked out well. He's now done masks for 14 NHL goalies.

Whenever he's hired for a job, Arrigo does a rough sketch of what he plans to do. Once he's working on the mural, canvas or mask, he photographs his work at every stage and sends them to his client.

Arrigo uses acrylic paints to minimize fumes — he'll wear a mask when he's in his studio. But he often paints in public at sports event so passersby can watch him wield his airbrush and turn his favourites sports ideas and icons into art.

The **Lowdown**

Job title: Sports artist
Salary: "It varies, but I'm able to have a good lifestyle and do lots of travelling."
Education: Self-taught
Best Part of the Job: "Interacting with people, I love that."
Worst Part of the Job: "Watching paint dry."

Diane Peters once hawked magic pens at the Canadian National Exhibition. She's now a writer and part-time journalism instructor.

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Most tax rebates to be used paying debt

According to a new CareerBuilder survey, more than half (56 per cent) of workers report they will use their tax return to pay off bills that have accumulated.

Tax returns can be a needed income boost for cash-strapped workers. Nearly eight-in-10 (78 per cent) said they currently live paycheck to paycheck; up from 61 per cent who said the same in May 2009. In addition, economic pressures have resulted in some workers downsizing their investments to help make ends meet.

"Workers' wallets are still feeling the ripple effects of the past year," said Rosemary Haefner of CareerBuilder. "In addition to scaling back their investments and cutting back on expenses, workers are using their tax returns to help supplement their incomes. Our survey indicates that more workers plan to spend their refunds on everyday expenses than on savings or other items."

While many workers indicated that they will use their tax returns to tackle bills, others said they will use their refunds for the following:

- Put into savings;
- Make home improvements;
- Go on vacation;
- Pay back money I owe to people;
- Invest it;
- Buy a car.

This survey was conducted by Harris Interactive on behalf of CareerBuilder.com among 5,231 U.S. workers (employed full-time; not self-employed; non government); ages 18 and over.

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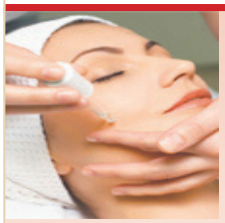

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Layoffs at FNUC

A reported 25 casual and temporary workers at the First Nations University of Canada were laid off last week as part of efforts at the institution to address an estimated $300,000 monthly deficit. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Workology in **brief**

MANITOBA RELEASES DETAILS ON TUITION REBATE ADVANCE

Last week, the Manitoba government announced the new Tuition Rebate Advance will come into effect on Aug. 31. At that time, the province's 60 per cent Tuition Fee Income Tax Rebate will be enhanced to allow students who are Manitoba residents to claim up to five per cent of their tuition each year before they graduate. The maximum annual advance limit is $250 in 2010, increasing to $500 in 2011 and all subsequent years, with a maximum advanced limit of $5,000. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Ryerson prof helps to break cycle of poverty

Mamon Ahmed wants to be a SWAT officer; it suits his taste for danger and helping others.

But the Regent Park teen isn't sure how to get there; a two-year college program in Police Foundations, or a four-year degree in Criminal Justice?

"I'm kind of eager to get working, so the shorter program looks kind of good."

Not necessarily, warns Rona Abramovitch, founder of several Ryerson University outreach programs that encourage low-income teens to set their educational sights high. Ahmed is taking a Ryerson marketing course this year through one of these Spanning the Gaps programs.

"If you're doing well in that course you'd probably thrive in Criminal Justice — and a degree might open a number of doors down the road," she told the young Bangladeshi-Canadian on a recent afternoon before his weekly class on the downtown campus.

Abramovitch, a former psychology professor, has won this year's YWCA Women of Distinction Award for Education for her work setting up programs that break the cycle of poverty by helping people on the margins earn a post-secondary credential.

RICK EGLINTON/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Mamon Ahmed chats with Ryerson professor Rona Abramovitch and mentor O'Neil Edwards, right, about his future. Abramovitch won an award this year for the outreach programs she runs.

Ahmed gets the same message from program manager O'Neil Edwards, who once mentored Ahmed through the Pathways to Education mentoring program that has kept hundreds of Regent Park teens in school.

"People with a university degree earn more than those with a college education," explained Edwards, "so that extra time in school could pay off in a couple of years."

More than 300 people have received one-on-one counselling over the past 18 months through Spanning the Gaps programs designed to help people overcome educational roadblocks, from academic to financial to personal.

"More affluent families can afford to hire a tutor and have computers at home with broadband and let the children have their own room to study in," said Abramovitch, who came to Ryerson in 2006 from the University of Toronto, where she oversaw a popular bridging program for low-income students.

"But marginalized students need help bridging the gap; sometimes just a stepping stone — and sometimes a life raft."

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Moyer dishes on Paquin romance

Stephen Moyer, who is engaged to True Blood co-star Anna Paquin, blames HBO for their relationship in a Details magazine article. "They put us in the same hotel ... The attraction was there, so it was a matter of whether we acted on it or not." POPEATER.COM

Entertainment

The Pirate way

Johnny Depp is adamant his decision to stick with the Pirates Of The Caribbean franchise was not motivated by money — insisting he "loves" his swashbuckling character. FEMALEFIRST.CO.UK

EDITOR: DEAN.LISK@METRONEWS.CA

Junos carry the torch

Producers riding wave of Olympic Games enthusiasm

This year's Junos hope to borrow some of the magic of the Vancouver Olympics.

Executive producer John Brunton says the show will look to connect with a country still on a high from the Games and might even incorporate some of the production tricks seen during the opening and closing ceremonies.

So, we'll see K'naan mingling with killer whales? Drake navigating cracking, splintering ice floes?

Not quite.

But the Junos will employ the same Quebec company that did projection work at the Olympics festivities, and Brunton says that the awards show will try to carry on the same spirit of Canadian patriotism that permeated the Games.

"We're trying to ride the wave — this tidal wave — of Canadian enthusiasm and patriotism that's come out of the Vancouver Olympics," Brunton, the mastermind behind Canadian Idol and Battle of the Blades said in a telephone interview.

The Juno Awards air Sunday on CTV

"I think the opening of the show has a real correlation with ... the whole vibe that came out of Vancouver. The whole sense of Canadians coming together in ways that we haven't really seen them do from a multicultural perspective and just a sense of pride."

Though Brunton is staying mum on most details for the show this Sunday, he says this year's instalment of the Junos will set a new technical standard for the venerable show.

"It's just pushing the envelope of the technology of a rock 'n' roll show," he said. "In terms of the lighting and projections we're using on our set ... we're pushing ourselves technologically into a different place."

He says viewers won't see the giant spouting orcas that captivated during the Games — "because we don't have as large a palette in terms of our stage" — but the Junos set will be "a great palette that can transform itself over the course of the nine acts in the program."

Those acts include Drake, Justin Bieber, K'naan, Billy Talent, Blue Rodeo and Michael Buble, who carries a leading six nominations into Sunday's festivities in St. John's, N.L.

To further the Olympic theme, Canadian gold medallists Alexandre Bilodeau and Jon Montgomery will be among the presenters at this year's show, which will be held without a designated host.

Justin Bieber is one of nine musical acts set to perform Sunday on CTV's broadcast of the Juno Awards in St. John's, N.L.

Meanwhile, organizers will cultivate a party atmosphere along famous George Street, where Juno nominees the Arkells and Deadmau5 will perform outdoors.

"We hope it will be raw, wild, patriotic enthusiasm from George Street, which will just be hopefully rabid Canadian music fans," he said. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Dixie Carter dies at 70

Television and Broadway actress Dixie Carter passed away Saturday morning at the age of 70. "This has been a terrible blow to our family," her husband, actor Hal Holbrook, said in a statement. PEOPLE.COM

Conan O'Brien hits the road

Laughter is the goal when a comedian steps in front of an audience. Conan O'Brien is in pursuit of that and more: The next stage of his career.

The former Tonight host, barred from appearing on TV until September by terms of his exit deal from NBC, kicks off a nationwide tour today in Eugene, Ore., that could highlight his popularity amid negotiations for a new talk show.

Dubbed The Legally Prohibited From Being Funny on Television Tour, the two-month venture will take O'Brien, his former Tonight band and sidekick Andy Richter to about 30 U.S. and Canadian cities.

It's virtually sold out and extra dates have been added in a handful of larger markets. Many tickets were priced at a relatively low $40, although the resale market has boosted their value to, for example, as much as $2,000 for VIP seats and face time with O'Brien in Chicago.

His tour ranked as the top-seller on StubHub when it was announced last month, "which is unheard of for a comedian," said Glenn Lehrman, spokesman for the online ticket site. The No. 1 spot usually goes to a sports event or big-arena pop concert, he said.

That makes O'Brien look like a winner — and a rock star — as he angles to return as a TV host, with Fox considered the most likely home among possibilities that also include a cable channel or a syndicated package.

"It's pretty impressive he sold out a national tour" so quickly, said Garth Ancier, a veteran TV executive who served as the first programming chief for Fox. "That says there's a fan base he's connected to, and demonstrates to Fox and anybody else his viability as a draw."

The stage shows are proof that "people will pay money to see him," said industry analyst Shari Anne Brill. "Which means he can make money for a network."

Mark Metzger, general manager for Fox affiliate KLSR-TV in Eugene, is rooting for O'Brien's success on the road. While Metzger is eager to welcome the comedian to Fox's late-night lineup, a number of other affiliates are reluctant to give up profitable sitcom reruns to make room for him.

Conan performs at Massey Hall May 22

The tour could change minds, Metzger said. "I think it would influence the other affiliates, with him going to cities and selling out theatres," he said.

Fox, which has said it's weighing the possibility of bringing O'Brien to the network, declined comment on whether a deal might be near.

O'Brien, whose early career included writing for The Simpsons, is trying out a new role as standup. While he has long performed monologues and sketches on TV, he didn't spend years honing a comedy club act like Leno, who started on the circuit and has remained on it even during Tonight.

A former O'Brien colleague dismisses any possibility of flop sweat.

"He's gonna kill," said writer-producer Alec Berg (Seinfeld, Curb Your Enthusiasm).

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Game show Pyramid to be revived
CBS has ordered a new pilot of the classic game show Pyramid to replace As the World Turns, according to the Hollywood Reporter. TVGUIDE.COM

For sale: Star Trek items

Fans get piece of franchise

Star Trek fans looking for Enterprise chairs, Starfleet uniforms or a model Klingon Bird of Prey can seek out new life for the dismantled pieces of a closed Las Vegas attraction based on the famous franchise.

Auctioneer Propworx Inc. plans to sell roughly 1,000 items large and small from Star Trek: The Experience at a warehouse sale Saturday in Las Vegas, CEO Alec Peters said.

The attraction, based on the beloved science fiction television series and movies, closed in 2008 after a 10-year run.

"Anything like this, you're sad to see it go, but on the other hand it's an opportunity for fans to preserve the stuff," Peters said.

"It's an opportunity for the studio to get it in the hands of people who made it great. I think it is bittersweet — we try to make it fun."

Among the items for sale are three large models of spaceships — the U.S.S. Enterprise A, the U.S.S. Voyager and the Klingon Bird of Prey — all in need of repair or restoration, as well as a replica of the Enterprise bridge from Star Trek: The Next Generation.

The attraction folded in Star Trek mythology, billing itself as a 21st-century time station used to transport personnel and equipment to and from the late 24th century.

The story was that the Experience let folks of the future meet and study many human cultures in Sin City, the place where they often converge.

The attraction included two rides where visitors were transported to the U.S.S. Enterprise, rode in a shuttle or faced a Borg encounter.

Mike Cornwell, the executive officer of a local Star Trek fan club that helped set up the memorabilia sale, said Friday that members of the club have been sad about the immersive experience going away.

"We see it as such a waste that they closed it down," Cornwell said.

"It's really a blow to all Star Trek fans everywhere."

Cornwell, 47, said he hopes to buy a certain piece of the exhibit's History of the Future, which chronicled the history of the Star Trek universe.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Up for grabs

- An $800 Borg alcove, where member of the synthetically enhanced drone race recharge and synch with a hive mind.
- Starfleet uniforms starting at $10.
- A model Klingon Bird of Prey.

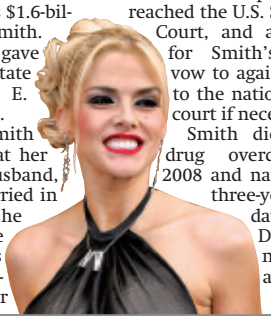
Star Trek's the U.S.S. Voyager is just one of thousands of items, both large and small being auctioned off on Saturday in Las Vegas.

Estate battle continues two years after Smith's death

PEOPLE Lawyers for the estate of Anna Nicole Smith have appealed a ruling that gave her none of her late billionaire husband's fortune.

The appeal filed April 8, seeks a full review by the San Fransisco-based 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals and continues a case that has outlived both parties.

In a March 19 ruling, a panel of the court sided with a Houston jury that decided in 2001 that Texas oil tycoon J. Howard Marshall never intended to leave any of his $1.6-billion estate to Smith. Marshall's will gave most of his estate to his son, E. Pierce Marshall.



However, Smith had argued that her elderly husband, whom she married in 1994 when she was 26 and he was 89 years old, had promised to leave her more than $300 million.

The case previously reached the U.S. Supreme Court, and attorneys for Smith's estate vow to again appeal to the nation's high court if necessary.

Smith died of a drug overdose in 2008 and named her three-year-old daughter Dannielynn as heir.

The former Playboy model's ex-boyfriend Larry Birkhead and attorney Howard K. Stern were placed in charge of her estate.

Smith initially challenged the will in Houston probate court and lost. However, a bankruptcy court in Los Angeles awarded her $474.75 million, which was later reduced to $89.5 million.

The legal dispute has centred on which court ruling to follow.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Genie Awards celebrate 30th

MOVIES They're sometimes referred to as Canada's version of the Oscars — an analogy that arguably only emphasizes the Genies' lacklustre profile when compared to its glitzier cousin.

The annual awards bash turns 30 today with a gala marking the Genies' past and looking to the future, and if there's one thing that's persisted over time it's that the average Canadian remains largely oblivious to the prize and many of the films it celebrates, says Seth Feldman, past president of the Film Studies Association of Canada and the editor of three cinema anthologies.

"Even people who follow Canadian film are often surprised by the number of films (nominated) that they've never heard of," says Feldman, a Canadian studies professor at York University.

The Genies air on IFC and online at CBC.ca. For a list of nominees, visit genieawards.ca

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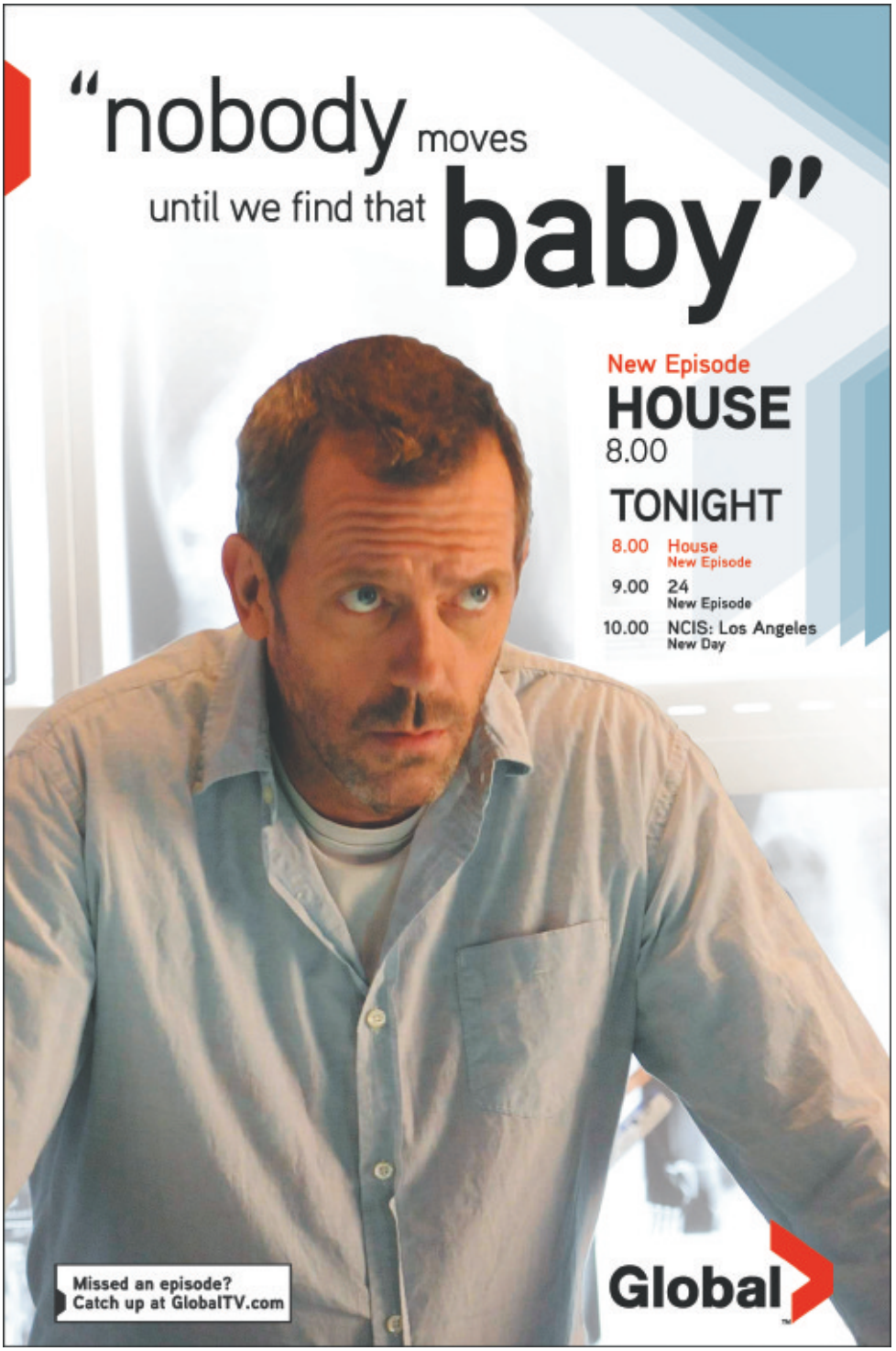

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Fey reprises SNL Palin

She's back and wearing leather. Tina Fey reprised her impression of Sarah Palin on Saturday Night Live while hosting the NBC sketch comedy show Saturday night.

It was Fey's first performance as the former Alaska governor since her iconic impressions during the 2008 presidential campaign when Palin was the Republican vice-presidential candidate.

Fey appeared as Palin in a sketch introducing a mock Sarah Palin Network, satirizing Palin's entry into media. Palin recently launched the program Real American Stories on Fox News Channel and will soon begin production on Sarah Palin's Alaska, an eight-part series for TLC.

Appearing as Palin in a leather jacket with an American flag pin, Fey introduced a lineup of shows like Tea Party Wheel of Fortune (the puzzle read "Obamar is a terrist"), Are You Smarter than a Half-Term Governor? and 30 Main Street, a parody of her own 30 Rock.

Other fake shows included Hey Journalist, I Gotcha, in which Palin re-edited interviews to make it look like her interviewers — like CBS' Katie Couric — were "woefully unprepared." Also touted was a spinoff starring husband Todd Palin (played on SNL by cast member Jason Sudeikis) as a renegade police officer transferred from Alaska to New York.

Fey made four appearances in 2008 as Palin, earning her an Emmy last year for guest actor. She was also voted 2008's AP Entertainer of the Year.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Tina Fey, right, performed her famous Sarah Palin role for the first time since the '08 election.

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Box office

1. **Date Night:** $27.1 million
2. **Clash of the Titans:** $26.9 million
3. **How to Train Your Dragon:** $25.4 million
4. **Tyler perry's Why Did I Get Married Too?:** $11 million
5. **The Last Song:** $10 million
6. **Alice in Wonderland:** $5.6 million US
7. **Hot Tub Time Machine:** $5.4 million
8. **The Bounty Hunter:** $4.3 million

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

	Vu	SD	C		7:00	7:30	8:00	8:30	9:00	9:30	10:00	10:30	11:00
primetime 4/12/10	265	353	2	TVO	Victorian Farm		The Agenda With Steve Paikin		Midsomer Murders		Empire of the Word		Agenda-Paikin
	211	331	3	GTV	Entertainment	ET Canada	House "Lockdown" (N)		24 (HDTV PA) (N)		NCIS: Los Angeles		News Hour
	215	343	4	OMN1	Two/Half Men	The Office	Omni News: Italian Edition (N)		Vivere V	Omni News:	Law & Order: Criminal Intent		Metropia
	210	302	6	CBC	Wheel Fortune	Jeopardy! (N)	18 to Life (N)	Little Mosque	Winnipeg Comedy		CBC News: The National		The Hour
	214	344	7	CITY	Law and Order		How I Met	How I Met	Trauma "Frequent Fliers"		Chuck (HDTV)		News
	212	313	8	CTV	etalk	Access H.	Hiccups (N)	Dan for Mayor	Two/Half Men	Big Bang	(10:01) CSI: Miami (N)		CTV News
	218	345	11	CHCH	*Dirty Dancing: Havana Nights* (2004, Romance)		*Goldfinger* ★★★★ (1964, Action) Sean Connery, Gert Frobe.						News at 11 (N)
	-	-	14	-	Family Guy	The Simpsons	Omni News: S. Asian Edition		Omni News: Cantonese Edition		Two/Half Men	King	Cold Case
	213	326	15	SUN	Old Christine	The Insider (N)	*The Outsiders* ★★ (1983, Drama) Matt Dillon.				The Insider (N)	Dream Car	Becker
	-	387	16	CBS	Inside Edition	Access H.	How I Met	Engagement	Two/Half Men	Big Bang	(10:01) CSI: Miami (N)		News 4 at 11
	-	385	17	NBC	Entertainment	The Insider (N)	Chuck (HDTV)		Trauma "Frequent Fliers"		Law & Order (HDTV)		News
	-	386	18	ABC	Wheel Fortune	Jeopardy! (N)	Dancing With the Stars (HDTV) (Live)				(10:02) Castle (N)		News
	219	346	20	ACH-B	Degrassi: TNG	TMZ (N)	Dancing With the Stars (HDTV) (Live)				(10:02) Castle (N)		A News
	-	-	28	FOX	Judge Judy (N)	Two/Half Men	House "Lockdown" (N)		24 (HDTV PA) (N)		Seinfeld	Two/Half Men	The Simpsons
	-	388	61	PBS	PBS NewsHour	Time Goes By	Antiques Roadshow (N)		American Experience (HDTV)		Among the Righteous		Business Rpt.
	297	652	330	WPX	Two/Half Men	Family Guy	Life Unexpected (N)		Gossip Girl (HDTV) (N)		PIX News at Ten Tong.		Two/Half Men
	296	654	331	SBK	The Insider (N)	Entertainment	Law & Order: Special Victims		WBZ News (N)	'70s Show	Frasier	Frasier	The Office
	298	653	332	TLA	The Tyra Show		According-Jim	Family Guy	KTLA News	KTLA News	Two/Half Men	Two/Half Men	Life Unexp.
news	502	390	26	NW	The Lang & O'Leary Exchange		Connect with Mark Kelley (N)		CBC News: The National		Sex Crimes and the Vatican		National
	500	500	33	CNN	John King, USA (N)		Campbell Brown (N)		Larry King Live (N)		Anderson Cooper 360 (HDTV) (N)		
	509	504	79	CNB	Kudlow Report (Live)		Planet of the Apps: Hand-held		Ultimate Fighting: Fistful		Dirty Money: Prostitution		Mad Money
sports	405	417	22	net	MLB Baseball Chicago White Sox at Toronto Blue Jays. From Rogers Centre in Toronto.						Hockeycentral		
	400	400	30	TSN	That's Hockey!	NBA Basketball Toronto Raptors at Detroit Pistons. (HDTV) (Live)					SportsCentre (HDTV) (Live)		
	411	457	58	OLN	Ghost Hunters		Destination Truth		Oper. Repo	Oper. Repo	Ghost Hunters		Destin. Truth
	417	406	81	SC	NASCAR	NASCAR Hub	Fast Track to Fame (HDTV) (N)		Racing Chef	NASCAR	NASCAR	What's Deal?	Car Crazy (N)
family	551	542	25	YTV	iCarly	Scorpion	Malcolm-Mid.	Hates Chris	8 Simple Rules	Things I Hate	Family Biz	To Be Indie	Prank Patrol
	554	544	45	TEL	Johnny Test	Total Drama	Total Drama	6TEEN	Futurama	King of the Hill	American Dad	Futurama	Robot Chicken
	556	540	51	FAM	Sonny-Chance	Suite Life	Overruled!	Han. Montana	Wizards-Place	Latest Buzz	Ned's School	Cory in House	That's-Raven
cable variety	602	567	27	W	Supernanny		How Clean Is	How Clean	Love It or List It		Love It or List It		Confidential
	570	580	29	MM	Secret Life of American Teen		Secret Life of American Teen		America's Best Dance Crew		Degrassi: TNG	Degrassi: TNG	UR11
	615	520	31	A&E	Criminal Minds (HDTV)		Intervention "Robby"		Intervention Ashley. (N)		Runaway Sq.	Runaway Sq.	Runaway Sq.
	700	800	35	TLN	Centrovetrine	Sky TG 24	Carabinieri		Carabinieri		George Lopez	George Lopez	Lopez Tonight
	571	581	36	MMM	The Daily Fix		Ranked!		mmtop10.ca		Behind the Music "Pink"		G. Simmons
	575	583	38	CMT	Due South		Amer. Funniest Home Videos		According-Jim	According-Jim	*Michael* ★★★ (1996, Drama) John Travolta.		
	616	521	39	SHO	Relic Hunter		*Odysseus and the Isle of the Mists* (2008, Fantasy)				Misfits (HDTV) (N)		Survivors
	620	523	40	BVO	Decoding the Undertow		Ballet Girls Ballet.		*ShowBusiness: The Road to Broadway* ★★★ (2005)				Law & Order
	601	562	41	SLC	Rich Bride Poor Bride		Bulging Brides	Bulging Brides	Rich Bride Poor Bride		The Millionaire Matchmaker		ET Canada
	522	506	43	HIS	Dogfights "Air Ambush"		Aftermath "Red Giant"		Ancient Weather (N)		Cities of the Underworld		Ancients-Badly
	625	548	44	COM	Air Farce	22 Minutes	Corner Gas	Name Is Earl	The Simpsons	South Park	Gilbert Gottfried: Dirty Jokes		Daily Show
	600	564	46	H&G	House Hunters	Property Virgin	For Rent	Bang, Buck	Home to Flip	Marriage	House Hunters	House Hunters	Holmes/Homes
	294	529	47	TBS	Family Guy	Family Guy	House-Payne	House-Payne	Law & Order: Special Victims		Seinfeld	Name Is Earl	*In the Mix*
	576	582	49	BET	106 & Park: BET's Top 10 Live		*Holiday Heart* ★★★ (2000, Drama) Ving Rhames.				Family Crews	Family Crews	Mo'Nique
	627	528	50	SPC	Stargate Atlantis (DVS)		Star Trek: Voyager		*Locusts: The 8th Plague* (2005, Science Fiction)				Stormworld
	581	566	52	MTV	After	Cribs	Cribs	Teen Cribs	Taking, Stage	My Life as Liz	My Life as Liz	After Show	MTV Live
	618	524	54	TROP	Re-Vamped		Wipeout		Wipeout (N)		Parking Wars	Parking Wars	Prod. Parker
	603	561	56	FOOD	Ricardo	David Rocco	Best Thing	At the Table	Kitchen Nightmares		Pitchin' In	Glutton	Best Thing
	261	394	60	V	Murder, She Wrote		Eyes Down	Wait for God	Blue Murder		Unscripted (N)	Naked	Poltergeist
	621	527	63	STR	Look-A-Like	TMZ	The Ellen DeGeneres Show (N)		The View (HDTV) (N)		The Dr. Oz Show (N)		TMZ
	553	546	65	TRE	Backyardigans	Night Garden	Waybuloo	Toopy & Binoo	Franklin	Dino	Little Bear	Toopy & Binoo	Max & Ruby
	526	507	249	VIVA	Cold Case "Roller Girl"		Missing Spring break.		Medium "Still Life"		Cold Case "Roller Girl"		Mediums
	300	601	301	M1	(7:15) *Franklyn* (2008, Drama) Sam Riley, Eva Green.				Spartacus: Blood and Sand (N)		Nurse Jackie	U.S. of Tara	Wild Things (N)
	305	612	306	PIX	(7:15) *The Pathfinder* ★★ (1996, Historical Drama)				*Mad Max* ★★★ (1979, Science Fiction)			(10:40) *Not Quite Hollywood*	
	520	146	-	DISC	Daily Planet (N)		Cleopatra: Portrait of a Killer		Dirty Jobs (N)		Motor City Motors (N)		Daily Planet
	637	-	-	TVLND	Red Green	Red Green	Fantasy Island		Hart to Hart		Andy Griffith	Phil Silvers	Bizarre
	605	-	-	FASH	First Class All the Way		FashionTele	RAW	FT Found Footage		FashionTelevision: Fashion		1st Class Way

Those TLC cheques must have finally stopped
New reports cite Jon Gosselin as "definitely open" to landing a co-starring role in his ex- wife's new TV shows Twist of Kate and Kate Plus 8, TMZ reports. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Celebrity Buzz

Splitsville for J and J

SO LONG AND THANKS FOR ALL THE GOSSIP FODDER Justin Timberlake and Jessica Biel have reportedly ended their three-year relationship, femalefirst.co.uk reports.

The showbiz couple, who have been dogged by suggestions their union is close to breaking up for some time, have called it quits.

"Justin truly thought he'd found the one in Jessica and she felt the same. But the relationship just didn't seem to go anywhere," a source told the Sunday Mirror newspaper.

"It was mutual and they agreed it was best to part ways if things weren't going to head towards marriage and kids. They are both incredibly busy." Timberlake is currently filming new comedy movie Bad Teacher with his ex-girlfriend Cameron Diaz, and the pair have been enjoying their time together, sharing jokes and getting on better than ever, the same source tells the newspaper.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

A monster's garage

FULL OF MISTRESSES Reports of an alleged fifth mistress for Jesse James suggest the Monster Garage host was more involved with affairs than perviously thought.

"She had a full-on relationship with Jesse," a source says of the woman, who wishes to remain unidentified, according to Radar Online.

"Jesse got a house for this woman and she said he paid the rent on it every month. She said he only stopped paying for it once she broke up with him."

Meanwhile, sources tell the website that James' neighbours were well aware that he was stepping out on Sandra Bullock.

"Everybody knew what a dog he was," a source says. "We always felt bad for Sandra, but it's not our business."

METRO WORLD NEWS

Funny man to philosopher

SPEAK THOSE WORDS OF WISDOM. ACE Jim Carrey, who announced his split from Jenny McCarthy this week on Twitter, has posted several Tweets defending Tiger Woods and criticizing Woods' wife, Elin Nordegren, ew.com reports.

On Friday, Carrey wrote, "Tiger Woods owes nothing 2 anyone but himself. 2 please his father he gave up his childhood and his freedom in the world. That's enough!"

Then the actor continued: "No wife is blind enough to miss that much infidelity. Elin had 2 b a willing participant on the ride 4 whatever reason" and "No woman just stays at home with the kids anymore. Tiger was wrong and Elin was ignoring the obvious."

Carrey also commented on what he considered to be society's unfair treatment of Woods these past few months: "Whenever we form a consensus about some1 we envy, who's stumbling, our collective ego LOVES to flex its unified muscle! S'ugly!"

METRO NEWS SERVICES

A quick in and out

MARRIAGE IS LIKE JUMPING INTO A COLD LAKE OR A PAN FULL OF HOT OIL On Friday's Oprah Winfrey Show, Kenny Chesney opened up about his quickie marriage to Renée Zellweger, us-magazine.com reports.

After just four months of dating, the two shocked fans when they wed in May 2005 in a barefoot-on-the-beach wedding. Four months later, Zellweger filed for an annulment, citing "fraud."

"I panicked," Chesney, 42, told Winfrey. "I look at my life as a box. So everything that I put in — learn how to play guitar, put that in the box — the friends I made, I put that in the box ... and my career grew.

"Everything around me — all of the awards and all of the songs I wrote and all the success and everything — I put in that box."

Asked whether their marriage was in or out of the box, Chesney replied, "It was out of the box. Oh my God, but it's tough. It really is tough. And she's a sweet soul, no doubt about it, but I just wasn't ready."

METRO NEWS SERVICES

A painful boobie trap

SHOULD THEY STAY OR SHOULD THEY GO? Amy Winehouse found herself back in the hospital again, but this time it had nothing to do with drinking or drugs.

The troubled singer was in immense pain thought to be related to a recent breast augmentation, sources tell the Sun.

"Amy was in agony and became convinced it was something to do with her boobs," a source says. "She thought she would leave it for a while but the pain got worse. She went into the clinic and they kept her under observation. She is waiting for a decision on whether the implants have to come out or not."

METRO WORLD NEWS

One and a half men?

THAT JUST SOUNDS SILLY Charlie Sheen is speaking out to clear the air about rumours he's leaving Two and a Half Men over a salary dispute.

"All of the numbers reported in the press are false. Claims from 'inside sources' regarding offers from the studio as well as my salary, on their best day, are without merit," Sheen says in a statement to People magazine.

"In no way has this been a hasty or negligent 11th hour surprise.

"If tonight's show is the end for me as Charlie Harper, so be it," he says.

METRO WORLD NEWS

Follow these celebrities on Twitter...

CelebTweets

JAMES VAN DER BEEK is going to be a father, **TYRA BANKS** is committing a fashion faux pas, and **PARIS HILTON** is dealing with a drenched phone.

@vanderjames Yes, it's true — the woman I love and I are expecting our first child... currently experiencing joy on levels I never knew existed. @tyrabanks I think I'm gonna wear the same outfit today as I did yesterday... shhhh! I really liked it!!! Have you ever done that? @ParisHilton Tried drying my blackberry with my blow dryer. Phone is still dead, brutal. I give up, hopefully it will dry out on it's own overnight.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Nothing says love like a safe landing

HEY, BABY, WHAT'S YOUR WING SPAN? Hilary Swank surprised her boyfriend by giving him a lift during one of her flight lessons, femalefirst.co.uk reports.

The actress — who recently portrayed aviator Amelia Earhart in Amelia — took a detour during her training for her pilot's license, cancelled partner John Campisi's flight and took her plane to pick him up instead.

"I said to my instructor, 'Can we pick my boyfriend up?' says Swank. "And he said, 'Sure.' So we flew to Vegas and showed up at the airport.

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Wednesday Partly cloudy 15° / 4°

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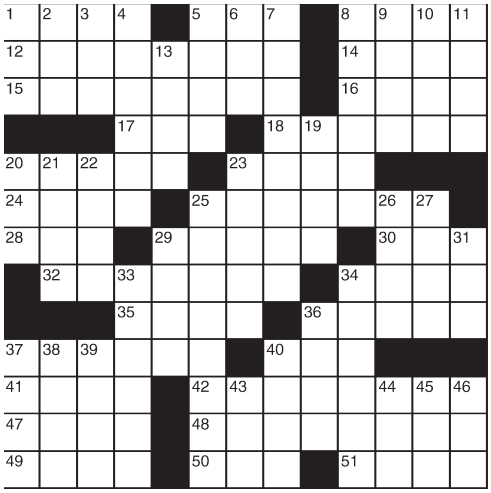

ACROSS

1 Often-dunked cookie
5 Away from NNW
8 Dog's feet
12 Not paraphrased
14 Last write-up
15 Hole
16 Depend (on)
17 Charged particle
18 "Shake, — and Roll"
20 Witch trial town
23 Trigonometric function
24 Persia, today
25 New Zealand bird, e.g.
28 Poorly lit
29 Poker table pronouncement
30 Joan of —
32 Suitable
34 Spill the beans
35 Humdinger
36 Baby kangaroos
37 Beverage of the gods
40 Prepared
41 Beige
42 Hunger
47 Stay away from
48 Strangled
49 Mary — Lincoln
50 TV Tarzan Ron
51 "A — home is his castle"

DOWN

1 Eggs
2 Agent, for short
3 Before
4 "Tonight Show" host, briefly
5 Dazzle
6 Knight's address
7 Retired
8 "Anything Goes" composer
9 Help in wrongdoing
10 Volition
11 Eyelid problem
13 Fermi's bit
19 Working without —
20 Comedian Caesar
21 Operatic solo
22 Genie's home
23 Animal track
25 Electrical strength
26 Harvard rival
27 Picture of health?
29 New Rochelle college
31 Letterman's network
33 Plump
34 Undersurface
36 Scoff
37 Bird's home
38 Reverberate
39 Gunky stuff
40 Agile
43 Chum
44 Call — day
45 X rating?
46 Sullivan and McMahon

Sudoku

For more/less challenging Sudoku puzzles, visit metronews.ca

HOW TO PLAY: Digits 1 through 9 will appear once in each zone – one zone is an outlined 3x3 grid within the larger puzzle grid. There are nine zones in the puzzle. Do not enter a digit into a box if it already appears elsewhere in the same zone, row across or column down the entire puzzle.

	2	9	6		8			3
		5	9	7	4			
	7		5					
		4				2	6	1
1	5	6				3		
					2		9	
			8	5	7	4		
8			3		6	5	1	

PREVIOUS DAY'S CROSSWORD AND SUDOKU ANSWERS:

7	4	2	3	6	9	5	1	8
8	1	5	7	4	2	6	9	3
3	9	6	5	8	1	7	2	4
1	7	3	2	5	8	9	4	6
6	2	4	9	1	7	3	8	5
5	8	9	6	3	4	1	7	2
2	3	7	4	9	5	8	6	1
4	5	8	1	7	6	2	3	9
9	6	1	8	2	3	4	5	7

On the web

For more games and 60 additional daily cartoon strips, visit metronews.ca

Metro Recipe of the Day

Italian Summer Salad

INGREDIENTS:

250 g dried penne
2 tbsp extra virgin olive oil
1 tbsp lemon juice
1 garlic clove, crushed
1 small bunch fresh basil, finely chopped
200 g red and yellow cherry tomatoes, halved
150 g fresh mozzarella, cubed
200 g jarred roasted red peppers, cut into strips

METHOD:

1. Cook penne in pot of salted boiling water according to pack instructions, until al dente.
2. In large bowl, mix olive oil, lemon juice, crushed garlic and basil. Drain pasta. While still hot, put into bowl with dressing and toss. Set aside to cool
3. Season. Add vegetables and mozzarella and toss. Serve

SERVES 4

rd.ca

For nutritional information on this and other great recipes, go to **rd.ca** or check out **Key Ingredients in this month's Reader's Digest, on newsstands now!**

Horoscopes by Sally Brompton sallybrompton.com

For Sally's expanded daily and weekend horoscopes, visit metronews.ca

ARIES ♈
MARCH 21-APRIL 20
As Wednesday's new moon falls in your sign you have every right to put your own needs first this week.

TAURUS ♉
APRIL 21-MAY 21
You are in a thoughtful mood at the moment, the kind of mood where you don't feel like interacting with other people.

GEMINI ♊
MAY 22-JUNE 21
The pace of life will pick up dramatically over the next few days, but that will only be a problem if you insist on doing everything yourself.

CANCER ♋
JUNE 22-JULY 22
As someone who respects the past you like things to stay as they are but that is not an option now. You must move with the times.

LEO ♌
JULY 23-AUG 23
Have faith in your own ideas and don't be afraid to stick your neck out and take a risk. You are on the right track.

VIRGO ♍
AUG 24-SEPT 22
The planets make it easy for you to approach people in positions of power. Let them know who you are and what you can do.

LIBRA ♎
SEPT 23-OCT 23
Ask yourself what you can do to make other people's lives more exciting and fulfilling this week.

SCORPIO ♏
OCT 24-NOV 22
Something you are working on would benefit from a second opinion, if only because you are too close to it and can't see the issues clearly.

SAGITTARIUS ♐
NOV 23-DEC 21
A new moon in the sympathetic sign of Aries this week means it is time you put your own interests first. What's best for you? Do it!

CAPRICORN ♑
DEC 22-JAN 20
Make a point of letting partners and loved ones make their own decisions this week. It might surprise you how well they cope.

AQUARIUS ♒
JAN 21-FEB 18
The approaching new moon suggests you will get more out of life by being co-operative than by being openly competitive.

PISCES ♓
FEB 19-MARCH 20
Have the courage to take risks this week, even though everyone around you is telling you to stick with what is safe. Trust your instincts.

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This day in history

1606: The Union Flag is adopted as the flag of Great Britain.
1633: The formal inquest of Galileo Galilei by the Inquisition begins.
1917: First World War: Canadian forces successfully complete the taking of Vimy Ridge from the Germans.
1945: U.S. President Franklin D. Roosevelt dies while in office; vice-president Harry Truman is sworn in as the 33rd President.
1955: The polio vaccine, developed by Dr. Jonas Salk, is declared safe and effective.
1980: Terry Fox begins his Marathon of Hope in St. John's, N.L..

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PRICED TO MOVE.

G3 SE 5-door with PDE and CF5[††]

2010 PONTIAC G3

INCLUDES • 108 HP 1.6L ECOTEC® Engine • 60/40 Split-Folding Rear Seatbacks • Driver and Front-passenger Frontal and Seat-mounted Side-impact Air Bags • Reclining Front Bucket Seats • 14-in. Wheels • Auxiliary Audio Input Jack • CD Player with MP3 Playback • Vehicle Theft-deterrent System • Fog Lights • Rear Window Wiper/Washer • And more

HWY: 5.7 L/100 KM (50 MPG)
CITY: 7.5 L/100 KM (38 MPG)[2]

$9,605

FREIGHT & PDI $1,350
FEES $44

$10,999* PURCHASE PRICE

$74‡ AT 5.79%
BI-WEEKLY/84 MONTHS • $0 DOWN PAYMENT
TAXES NOT INCLUDED

ADD AIR CONDITIONING FOR ONLY $8‡ MORE BI-WEEKLY

INCLUDES $4,000 CASH CREDITS♦

SE model shown with Podium Edition Package[††]

2010 PONTIAC G5 SE

Coupe or Sedan

INCLUDES • 155 HP 2.2L ECOTEC® VVT Engine • **Automatic Transmission • Air Conditioning • Power Windows, Door Locks and Mirrors** • 60/40 Split-Folding Rear Seatbacks • Driver and Front-passenger Frontal Air Bags • Head Curtain Side-impact Air Bags • Auxiliary Audio Input Jack • Remote Keyless Entry System • 16-in. Aluminum Wheels • 4-wheel ABS • And more

PONTIAC G5 GIVES YOU MORE

	2010 PONTIAC G5 SE AUTO	2010 TOYOTA COROLLA CE SEDAN	2010 HONDA CIVIC DX SEDAN
CASH PURCHASE PRICE	$15,999	$16,280****	$17,385****
AUTOMATIC TRANSMISSION	Standard	Optional	Optional
HEAD CURTAIN SIDE IMPACT AIRBAGS	Standard	Standard	Standard
AIR CONDITIONING	Standard	Optional	Optional
16" ALUMINUM WHEELS	Standard	15" Steel	15" Steel
REMOTE KEYLESS ENTRY	Standard	Optional	Not Available
POWER DOOR LOCKS	Standard	Optional	Not Available
HP / TORQUE	155/150	132/128	140/128
POWERTRAIN WARRANTY	5-year/160,000 km	5-year/100,000 km	5-year/100,000 km

WITH More than $3,000 in additional features than Toyota or Honda**

**Value of additional features based on dealer pricing. Vehicle comparison is based on 2010 G5 SE (2AL69/2AL37 1SA + MX0), 2010 Civic DX Sedan (FA1E2AEX) and 2010 Corolla CE Sedan (BU4ZEM). ****Vehicle specification and purchase price according to the information available on the manufacturer's website at time of printing. Note: Purchase Price based on MSRP less CDA & Customer Bonus (Freight In).

$14,605

FREIGHT & PDI $1,350
FEES $44

$15,999* PURCHASE PRICE

$107‡ AT 5.79%
BI-WEEKLY/84 MONTHS • $0 DOWN PAYMENT
TAXES NOT INCLUDED

INCLUDES $5,000 CASH CREDITS♦

VEHICLE PRICING IS NOW EASIER TO UNDERSTAND BECAUSE ALL OUR PRICES INCLUDE FREIGHT, PDI AND MANDATORY GOVERNMENT LEVIES.
Prices do not include applicable taxes and PPSA. Consumers may be required to pay up to $599 for Dealer fees.***

HWY: 5.9 L/100 KM (48 MPG)
CITY: 8.7 L/100 KM (32 MPG)[2]

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THE BEST COVERAGE IN CANADA
5 YEARS / 160,000 KM* • POWERTRAIN COMPONENT LIMITED WARRANTY • ROADSIDE ASSISTANCE • COURTESY TRANSPORTATION
*WHICHEVER COMES FIRST. EXCLUDES MEDIUM-DUTY TRUCKS. SEE DEALER FOR LIMITED WARRANTY DETAILS.

Redeem your GM card earnings today†

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PONTIAC BUICK GMC

For the latest information, visit us at pontiac.gm.ca, drop by your local Pontiac Buick GMC Dealer or call us at 1-800-GM-DRIVE. ♦$4,000/$5,000 is a manufacturer to dealer delivery credit for 2010 Pontiac (G3/G5) reflected in offers in this advertisement. *Offer applies to the purchase of 2010 Pontiac (G3 5-door R7A/G3 5-door R7C/G5 SE Coupe or Sedan R7C). ‡Financing on approved TD Bank credit only. 5.79% purchase financing for 84 months available on 2010 Pontiac (G3 5-door R7A/G3 5-door R7C/G5 SE Coupe or Sedan R7C). Example: $10,000 at 5.79% for 84 months, the monthly payment is $145.08. Cost of borrowing is $2,186.72. total obligation is $12,186.72.Down payment and/or trade may be required. Monthly payment and cost of borrowing will vary depending on amount borrowed and down payment/trade. Taxes are not included for bi-weekly payment. Bi-weekly payments based on a purchase price of $10,999/$12,298/$15,999 with $0 down payment. ♦/†‡Freight & PDI ($1,350$1,350/$1,350), registration, air and tire levies and OMVIC fees are included. Insurance, licence, PPSA, dealer fees and applicable taxes are not included. Offers apply as indicated to the purchase or finance of 2010 new or demonstrator models of the vehicle equipped as described. Offers apply to qualified retail customers in the Ontario Pontiac Buick GMC Dealer Marketing Association area only (including Outaouais). Dealers are free to set individual prices. Limited time offer which may not be combined with other offers. See your dealer for conditions and details. **Dealer trade may be required. ΔΔ2010 Pontiac G3 equipped with 5-speed manual transmission. 2010 Pontiac G5 SE equipped with 4-speed automatic transmission. Fuel efficiency ratings based on Natural Resources Canada's 2010 Fuel Consumption Guide. Your actual fuel consumption may vary. †Pontiac G3 SE 5-door with PDE and CF5, MSRP $17,810. Pontiac G5 SE Podium Edition, MSRP $21,880. †Subject to Vehicle Redemption Allowances. Visit thegmcard.ca for more details including terms and conditions that apply to The GM Card Earnings and Redemption Program. The Toronto-Dominion Bank and its affiliates are not responsible for the GM Card Earnings and Redemption Allowance Program. ®Registered trade-mark of General Motors Corporation/Used under license. TD logo is a trade-mark of The Toronto-Dominion Bank.